

Brit. 419^x(4

<36629630770011

<36629630770011

Bayer. Staatsbibliothek

HISTORY
COUNTIES, CITIES,
AND
BOROUGHES.

PART II. — VOL. II.

THE HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTIES, CITIES,
AND
BOROUGHES
OF THE
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

PART II. — VOL. II.

THE
REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY
OF
G R E A T B R I T A I N
AND
IRELAND:

BEING A HISTORY OF
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,
AND OF THE
COUNTIES, CITIES, AND BOROUGHES,
OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM,
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD.

BY T. H. B. OLDFIELD.

"Without a parliamentary reform, the nation will be plunged into new wars: without a parliamentary reform, you cannot be safe against bad ministers; nor can good ministers be of use to you. No honest man can, according to the present system, continue minister."—*Pitt's Speech, 1782.*

"If an Englishman," said the great Frederick of Prussia, "has no knowledge of those kings that filled the throne of Persia, if his memory is not embarrassed with that infinite number of popes that ruled the church, we are ready to excuse him: but we shall hardly get the same indulgence for him, if he is a stranger to the origin of parliaments, to the customs of his country, and to the different lines of kings who have reigned in England."—*Kett's Elements of General Knowledge, Vol. II., Page 3.*

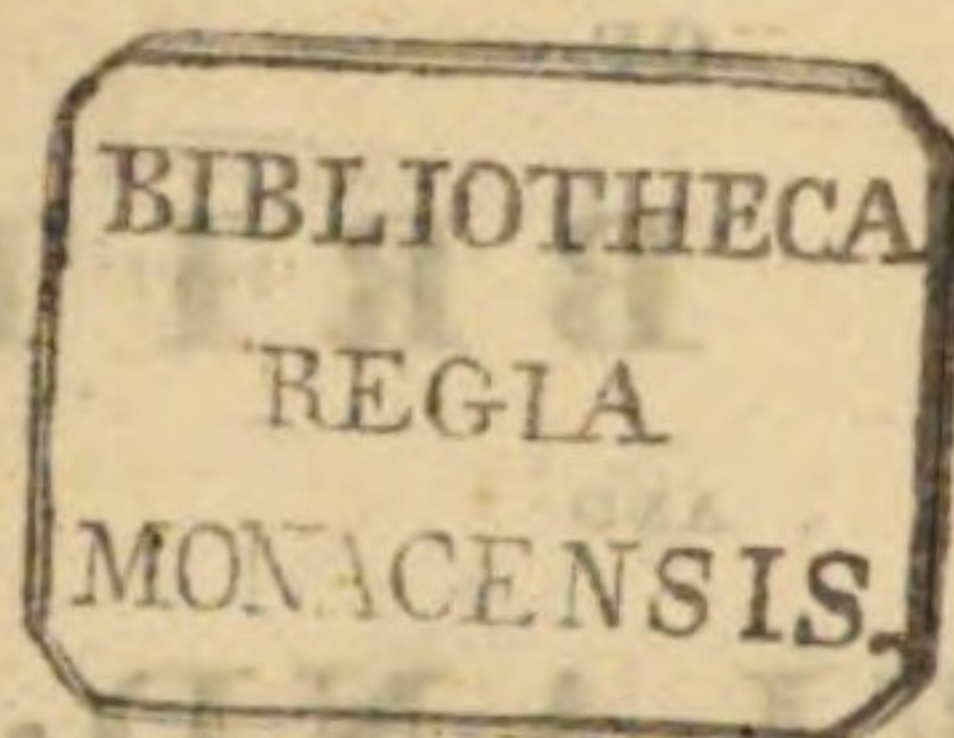
IN SIX VOLUMES—VOL. IV.

London:

PRINTED FOR BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1816.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY



COUNTIES, CITIES, AND BOROUGHS.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.

BY T. H. B. OLDFIELD.

Gillet, Printer, Crown-court, Fleet-street, London.

.6191

CONTENTS

OF PART II. VOLUME II.

HEREFORDSHIRE	.	.	.	.	1
Hereford	.	.	.	.	6
Leominster	.	.	.	.	10
Weobley	.	.	.	.	17
HERTFORDSHIRE	.	.	.	.	22
Hertford	.	.	.	.	27
St. Alban's	.	.	.	.	33
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	.	.	.	.	41
Huntingdon	.	.	.	.	46
KENT	.	.	.	.	51
Canterbury	.	.	.	.	60
Rochester	.	.	.	.	64
Maidstone	.	.	.	.	68
Queenborough	.	.	.	.	77
LANCASHIRE	.	.	.	.	84
Lancaster	.	.	.	.	89
Preston	.	.	.	.	93
Liverpool	.	.	.	.	99

	PAGE
Clitheroe	108
Newton	113
Wigan	115
LEICESTERSHIRE	118
Leicester	123
LINCOLNSHIRE	128
Lincoln	133
Grantham	138
Stamford	144
Great Grimsby	148
Boston	156
MIDDLESEX	163
London	185
Westminster	197
MONMOUTHSHIRE	239
Monmouth	242
NORFOLK	244
Norwich	250
Yarmouth	255
Thetford	257
Lynn Regis	264
Castle Rising	268
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	272
Northampton	276
Peterborough	283
Brackley	288
Higham Ferrers	292
NORTHUMBERLAND	295
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	302
Morpeth	305
Berwick-upon-Tweed	310
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	315
Nottingham	318
Newark	325
East Retford	330

CONTENTS.

vii

	PAGE
OXFORDSHIRE	346
Oxford City	350
Oxford University	356
Woodstock	362
Banbury	365
RUTLANDSHIRE	368
SHROPSHIRE	371
Shrewsbury	375
Bridgenorth	389
Ludlow	391
Wenlock	398
Bishops' Castle	400
SOMERSETSHIRE	406
Bristol	410
Bath	418
Wells	424
Taunton	430
Bridgewater	440
Ilchester	447
Minehead	464
Milborn Port	471
STAFFORDSHIRE	493
Litchfield	495
Stafford	502
Newcastle-under-Lyne	508
Tamworth	518
SUFFOLK	524
Ipswich	528
Bury St. Edmund's	542
Sudbury	547
Dunwich	556
Orford	563
Aldborough	567
Eye	570

	PAGE
SURREY	572
Southwark	577
Guildford	590
Haslemere	594
Gatton	602
Bletchingley	608
Ryegate	613

HISTORY
OF THE COUNTIES, CITIES,
 AND
BOROUGHES,
IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

HEREFORD—COUNTY.

HEREFORDSHIRE, an inland county of England, is in form nearly circular, and in situation between $51^{\circ} 33' 7''$ and $52^{\circ} 29' 43''$ north latitude, and $2^{\circ} 28' 30''$ and $3^{\circ} 19' 32''$ west longitude of London. It adjoins Shropshire on the north, Worcestershire on the north-east and east, Gloucestershire on the south-east, Monmouthshire on the south-west, Brecknockshire on the west, and Radnorshire on the north-west. Its length from north to south is about 38 miles, and breadth from west to east about 35, being in the diocese of Hereford. The gross number of acres in the county are estimated at 600,000; deducting 30,000 for the sites of towns, roads, water, and buildings, and 50,000 more for waste lands and woods, there remain 520,000 acres of cultivated ground. It comprehends 221 parishes, which are arranged in 11 hundreds, and include the city of

Hereford, the two borough towns of Leominster and Weobley, five other market towns, Ross, Ledbury, Kington, Bromyard, and Pembridge. It sends eight representatives to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for the city, two for Leominster, and two for Weobley. Ledbury, Ross, and Bromyard, anciently had representatives, but voluntarily declined the privilege, on account of the expense then attached to those who exercised the right of electors. This county contains 17,003 houses, 89,191 inhabitants, viz. 43,955 males, and 45,236 females, of whom 8,588 were returned as employed in various trades and manufactures, and 31,261 in agriculture. The air and climate vary considerably in different parts and elevations of the county, no air, generally speaking, being more harsh and unkind than that which comes from the west; this is, probably, to be attributed to the extensive tracts of mountainous country, which in that direction are seldom without snow during the winter, and often whitened with it even late in the spring. The vicinity of Ross is said to be the most early in vegetation. The soil of this county, in its general character, is a mixture of marl and clay, of great fertility, containing a certain proportion of calcareous earth. Deep beds of fine gravel are met with at the site and in the vicinity of the city of Hereford. Below the surface are strata of limestone, often beautifully intersected with veins of red and white, somewhat resembling calcareous spar. Near Snodhill castle, in the hundred of Webtree, it becomes a species of marble, and was in considerable use and estima-

tion as such during part of the 17th century. Iron ore was discovered in the sandy district of Wormelow hundred as early as the time of the Romans in Britain, but of late years no iron has been manufactured in Herefordshire. Small particles of lead ore have occasionally been found in the lime rocks at the north-west part of the county. Many attempts to find coal have recently been made, but without success. Red and yellow ochres, and tobacco pipe clay, have been found; and fuller's earth is occasionally dug for sale in small quantities on the estates of the late Hon. Edward Foley, of Stoke Edith. The principal rivers and streams are the Wye, the Lug, the Munnow, the Arrow, the Frome, the Teme, and the Leddon. Of these the Wye is the most beneficial to the immediate purposes of agriculture, in the conveyance of wheat and flour to Bristol, of coal for burning limestone, and also in the conveyance of lime from the kiln to distant parts of the county. It rises near the summit of the mountain Plinlimmon in Montgomeryshire, and after dividing the counties of Brecknock and Radnor, and passing Hereford, Ross, Monmouth, and Chepstow, falls into the Severn. The barges used on this river are from eighteen to thirty tons, but either a large or small supply of water is equally fatal to the navigation. The Lug rises in Radnorshire, and running past Leominster receives near that town the Arrow, and falls into the Wye at Mordiford. The Munnow rises on the east of the Hatterel mountains, and after receiving several small streams, becomes the boundary between

Herefordshire and Monmouthshire, and falls into the Wye at Monmouth. The Arrow has its source in Radnorshire, and, as just mentioned, falls into the Lug near Leominster. The Frome rises in the north part of the county, and falls into the Lug near its junction with the Wye. The Teme passes alternately through parts of this county and Shropshire, and falls into the Severn. Pearls have occasionally been found in the muscle shells of the Teme. The Leddon rises above Bosbury, and passing Ledbury, to which it gives name, enters Kington. The returns made under the act of 26 Geo. III. report the net expenses for maintaining the poor throughout the county of Hereford in the year 1776 to have been 10,593*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, and the average of the years 1783, 4, and 5, as returned under similar authority, was stated at 16,727*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*; at present they nearly amount to 20,000*l.*, being double the sum raised thirty years ago. The agricultural produce of this county consists of wheat, oats, barley, and peas. Hop plantations prevail in different degrees, but abound most towards Worcestershire. The orchards of Herefordshire acquired their peculiar eminence in the reign of Charles the First, when by the noble exertions of Lord Scudamore, of Home Lacy, and other gentlemen, this county became in a manner one entire orchard. Plantations are now found in every aspect, and on soils of every quality and under every culture; and great quantities of cyder and perry are made both for provincial use, and for the various markets both of the metropolis and all parts of the king-

dom. The cattle of Herefordshire have long been esteemed superior to most, if not to all, the breeds in the island, and the provincial breed of sheep is termed the Ryeland. Previously to the Romans landing in Britain, Herefordshire was inhabited by the Silures, and when the heptarchy was formed by the Saxons, it constituted part of the kingdom of Mercia. Being a frontier county, it became subject to the incursions of the Welsh, who frequently committed great depredations. The amount of the property tax, in 1806, for this county was £810,187. The average number of deaths, taken from the registered burials for 10 years, appear to have been as 1 to 64 of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has been represented in Parliament from the first summons of Edward the First, and the earliest contested election for the county appears to be as follows.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 25, 1708. A petition of Henry Gorge, esq., against the undue return of John Price, esq., by means of the arbitrary conduct of the sheriff in denying the petitioner a scrutiny and a copy of the poll, at which time he was most outrageously insulted.

Dec. 5, 1710. Another petition of the same, complaining of the same return, and imputing to Mr. Price bribery and the issuing of scandalous libels, reflecting on the privileges of the House of Commons, &c., &c.

1802. Petitions from several freeholders, and

one from Richard Middleton Biddulph, esq., against the return of Sir George Cornwall and John Geers Cotterell, esq., on the treating act.

The committee determined, "That Sir George Cornwall, bart., was duly elected."

"That John Geers Cotterell, esq., was not duly elected."

"That Richard Middleton Biddulph, esq., was not duly elected."

And a new writ was ordered: when John Mathews, esq., was chosen for the remainder of the second Imperial Parliament.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The representation of this county is compromised by the opposition and ministerial parties. The Duke of Norfolk and Lord Foley are at the head of one party; and the Bishop of Hereford and his clergy, called in this county the *Black Tans*, influence the other. Sir George Cornwall, Mr. Biddulph, Mr. Scudamore, and Mr. Arkwright, have also considerable estates in Herefordshire.

HEREFORD—CITY.

HEREFORD is a city in the hundred of Grims-worth, Herefordshire, 13 miles from Leominster, 14 from Ross, and 135 from London; containing 1,392 houses and 6,828 inhabitants; viz. 3,023 males and 3,805 females, of whom 1,315 were returned as employed in trade and manufactures.

It stands on the banks of the Wye, near the centre of the county. Herefordshire lying on the borders of Wales, this town became a strong station for the Saxon and English forces; and its name in Saxon signifies the ford of an army. By some it is supposed to have been derived from *Ercinna*, the ancient British name of the county; and by others to have been built on the site of *Ariconium*, an ancient town mentioned by Antonine, which was destroyed by an earthquake. This place began to flourish about 825, having a church built here by King Milfred, the Mercian, in memory of Ethelbert, King of the East Angles, who was murdered by King Offa's Queen, whilst courting her daughter at Marden, a village in the neighbourhood, and buried here. Soon after it became a cathedral and a bishop's see, and the cathedral was rebuilt by Bishop Athelstan, between 1012 and 1056. The city in general is well built, the streets clean and spacious; but there is no manufacture of consequence at present, that of gloves, once considerable, having now much declined. In that part called the High Town, which is a kind of square, stands the shire-hall, where the assizes and quarter-sessions are held. There is a bridge built of stone, over the river Wye, of six arches. The ramparts and site of the ancient castle, now called Castle Green, form an agreeable promenade, having been converted into very pleasant walks. The city, standing on a gravelly soil, is accounted very healthy, and the inhabitants, in general, are long-lived: this appears evident from the average number of burials for 10 years, from

1790 to 1800, being a proportion of 1 to 60½ of the existing population, whilst that of the metropolis was as 1 to 31.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city is said to have been incorporated by King John, but the present charter was granted by King James I. in the 17th year of his reign.

May 16, 1661. Mr. Sergeant Charleton reported from the committee, touching the double return for this borough of Sir Henry Lyngen and Sir Edward Hopton, knts., by one indenture, and Herbert Westfaling, esq. and Sir Henry Lyngen, knt., by another.

Resolved: "That the election is void," and a new writ was ordered.

A motion was made to send for the mayor in custody, but was disagreed to.

PETITIONS, &c. June 26, 1689. A petition of Edward Gwyn, esq., against the return of Henry Cornwall, esq., by means of the petitioner being violently assaulted on the morning of election, when *several swords were drawn* against him; his voters and friends were threatened and discouraged by the mayor and town-clerk, (his own father) in favour of his competitor, terrifying them that *they would ruin them*, and make the town *too hot for them*.

Aug. 6. Resolved: "That Henry Cornwall, esq., is duly elected to serve for this city;" to which the House agreed.

March 30, 1715. A petition of Herbert Rudhall Westfaling and Nicholas Philpit, esqrs.,

against the return of Lord Scudamore and Thomas Foley, esq., by means of various illegal practices.

— A petition of several freemen of the said city against the same return.

Feb. 18, 1716. Both petitions withdrawn.

April 8, 1717. A petition of Timothy Geers, esq., against the return of Mr. Westfaling.

— 9. A petition of several freemen against the same return.

No determination.

April 10, 1723. A petition of John Prise, esq., against the return of James Walwyn, esq.

Jan. 10, 1724. Another petition of John Prise, esq., in substance the same.

Feb. 12. Petitions withdrawn.

Parl. 7. John Kyrwood, esq., petitioned, but withdrew his petition.

Parl. 8. Herbert Rudhale Westfaling, esq., petitioned. The committee discharged from proceeding thereon in sess. 1. Renewed sess. 2.

Parl. 16. Several electors petitioned against the Earl of Surrey's election, and a day was appointed for hearing the same, but on the 5th of July, 1784, the petitioners withdrew their petition.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, high-steward, recorder, six aldermen, and twenty-four common-councilmen, a town-clerk, and other officers, by charter of 17 James I.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1200.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Duke of Norfolk.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The patronage of the Duke of Norfolk in this city is not absolute, as it is in his Grace's boroughs of Arundel, Horsham, and Steyning, but popular, as it may be said to be in Gloucester, Carlisle, and Shoreham, arising from his known independence of character, his political consistency, and pre-eminent fortune. Hereford, Gloucester, and Carlisle, are certainly independent cities, but they have adopted the Duke of Norfolk by choice, as being best qualified to defend them against a more unwelcome influence, that of the treasury, or some opulent neighbours, who might expect more submission, with less popular claims. It must be admitted, that the members recommended by the Duke always vote on the side of the people.

LEOMINSTER.

LEOMINSTER is a borough and market-town in the hundred of Wolphy, Hereford, 26 miles from Worcester, and 137 from London, situated on the Wye, in what are called the marshes of Wales. It contains 687 houses, and 3,019 inhabitants, being 1,349 males and 1,670 females, of whom 602 were returned as being employed in various trades, principally in making gloves and hats, and in tanning leather. The market, originally held

on Thursday, has been changed to Friday, on the petition of the inhabitants of the cities of Hereford and Worcester, who complained of the decay of their trade. Fairs, 13th February, Tuesday after Mid-lent Sunday, 2d May, 10th July, 4th September, and 8th November. The bailiff holds a court of pie-powder at each of them.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough has sent members to Parliament since the 23rd of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. March 22, 1661. Sergeant Charleton reported from the committee, that the poll was denied Mr. Conningsby; but he being a prisoner in execution for debt, and not eligible, the denying the poll to him could not avoid the election; and, therefore, they considered Mr. Cornwall and *Mr. Graham* duly elected; and the House resolved to that effect.

March 24, 1689. A petition of Ferdinand Gorges, esq., against the return of John Dutton Colt, esq., by means of the bailiff using threats, and other illegal practices, to several persons from voting for the petitioner.

No report appears.

Feb. 13, 1700. A petition of Edward Harley, esq., against the return of John Dutton Colt, esq., by means of the bailiff, justices of the peace, the town-clerk, and overseers of the poor, using menaces, bribery, threats, and various other illegal practices.

— 17. A petition of divers inhabitants against the said return to the same effect.

April 3, 1701. "That the right of election was agreed to be in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms."

The poll was, for Mr. Cole 145

for petitioner 116

Majority for the sitting member, Mr. Cole 29

Resolved: "That John Dutton Cole, esq., is not duly elected."

"That Edward Harley, esq., is duly elected a Burgess to serve for this borough;" which resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Jan. 3, 1702. A petition of John Dutton Colt, esq., against the return of Edward Harley, esq., by means of menaces and other unlawful practices.

No determination.

Nov. 25, 1708. A petition of Farley Osborn, esq., against the return of Edward Harley.

March 5, 1709. Petition withdrawn.

March 3, 1713. A petition of John Dutton Colt, esq., against the return of Edward Harley and Henry Gorges, esqrs.

April 16, 1714. Petition withdrawn.

March 28, 1715. A petition of Henry Gorges against the return of Edward Harley, esq.

A petition of divers inhabitants shewing, that Lord Coningsby, lord lieutenant of the said county of Hereford, has, by bribes, threats, and other illegal practices, procured himself and Henry Gorges, (brother-in-law to the said lord lieutenant,) to be elected members for this borough.

No report appears.

March 4, 1716. A petition of divers inhabitants of the borough of Leominster, in the county of Hereford, was presented, complaining of an undue election: and a motion being made, and the question put, that it be referred to the Committee of Privileges, and report on the same, it passed in the negative; and

Ordered: "That the said petition be rejected."

April 6, 1717. A petition of the inhabitants and burgesses of this borough, complaining of an undue election for the said borough.

A petition of Henry Gorges, esq., against the return of Richard Gorges and George Caswell, esqrs.

April 30. Ordered: "That the committee be discharged from proceeding on the petition of the said Henry Gorges, esq., he having neglected to deliver in his qualification within fifteen days after the demand was made.

Resolved: "That George Caswell, esq., is not duly elected, as his return was obtained by bribery."

Dec. 2. A petition of Henry Gorges, esq., against the return of George Caswell, esq., he not having sufficient estate, nor had, at the time of his election, 300*l. per annum*, as required by the act of the 9th year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne.

— 14. Petition withdrawn.

March 10, 1720. They proceeded to take into further consideration the reports from the Committee of Secrecy.

Resolved: "That it appears to this House, that during the time the bill for enabling the South Sea Company to enlarge their capital stock and fund was depending, 50,000*l.* stock, being part of the 574,000*l.* fictitious stock entered in the cash-book of the said Company as sold for 1,259,375*l.*, was taken in, or held by Robert Knight, late cashier of the said Company, for Elias Turner, Jacob Sawbridge, and Sir George Caswell, (*a member of this House*) without any valuable consideration paid, or sufficient security given, for the acceptance of, or payment for, such stock.

Resolved: "That it appears by the books of the said Turner and Company, and the examinations before the House, that there was a clear profit of 250,000*l.* made of the said 50,000*l.* stock so taken in, or held as aforesaid.

Resolved: "That the said Sir George Caswell, (*a member of this House,*) by concurring with his partners, in having the 50,000*l.* stock taken in, or held as aforesaid, has been guilty of a *corrupt, infamous, and dangerous* practice, highly reflecting on the honour and justice of Parliament, and destructive to the interest of his majesty's government;" and further

Resolved: "That the said George Caswell be, for his said offence, expelled this House, and committed a prisoner to the Tower of London;" and

Ordered a new writ for electing a burgess in his room.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Edward Harley and James Clark, esqrs., against the return of Sir

George Caswell, he being unqualified to sit, not having sufficient estate, clear of incumbrances.

Resolved: "That Sir George Caswell is not duly elected;" which being read a second time, together with the act of the 7th William III., cap. 4., for preventing charge and expense in elections, was disagreed to.

Parl. 7. Sir Archer Croft, bart., petitioner, was elected for Bere, Alston, and Winchelsea, and withdrew his petition.

Parl. 8. Sir Robert Cornewall, bart., petitioner—renewed sess. 2 and 3.

Parl. 18. Robert Biddulph, esq., petitioned. The chairman reported, "That the sitting members were duly elected, and that the petition was not frivolous or vexatious." Dec. 12, 1796.

CORPORATION.

By a charter of Queen Mary, consists of a bailiff, recorder, and 24 capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

April 16, 1725. In the Bailiff, capital Burgesses, and Inhabitants, paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—500.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

PATRON—Mr. Coleman, an attorney and banker of this town.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough, during the life-time of Chase Price, esq., of convivial memory, was entirely under his influence and management. He always

contrived to get himself, and a colleague in the interest of government, returned, from whom he procured not only a large *douceur* for himself, but also a few trifling gratuities from administration, for those who were the most zealous in his cause. After his decease, Lord Bateman, who has been the adherent of every administration, became the patron and manager of this borough, in which character he continued until the eve of the general election in 1790, when the Duke of Norfolk, first attempted the establishment of an interest, and under his auspices Richard Beckford, esq., was introduced.

The corporation magistrates, having the appointment in themselves of the overseers, took care that the office should be filled with their own creatures, and those men thus appointed, refused, as in the borough of Seaford, to rate any inhabitant who was adverse to their own party. The persons who had been thus treated appealed to that tribunal which had been the primary cause of an attempt to deprive them of their votes, and they of course could meet with no redress. They however derived, from this appeal, the privilege of proving their rateability to a committee of the House of Commons, who have, upon the petition of Mr. Beckford, admitted every person, so omitted by the overseers, to the full enjoyment of their political franchise. But unless there be a law, prohibiting the magistrates and overseers from acting in this scandalous and partial manner, or committees of the House of Commons will inflict exemplary punishments, the evil will not be done

away, and those unfortunate men, whose interests or inclinations may induce them to clash with those of the magistrates, will still be left without any mode of redress, except that of petitioning the House of Commons.

The Earl of Essex afterwards contested this borough with the Duke of Norfolk, but these noblemen soon became disgusted with the corruption of the place, and abandoned it altogether; since which time it has fallen under the control of Mr. Coleman, the attorney.

WEOBLEY.

WEOBLEY, a borough, market-town, and parish in the hundred of Stretford, Hereford, $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Hereford, and 146 from London; containing 139 houses and 608 inhabitants; many of the houses are well built modern structures, as the town suffered greatly by fire some years back. Here is no trade or manufacture, and it is chiefly noted for the excellence of its ale. The site of its ancient castle is now converted into a bowling-green.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough returned members to Parliament to all Edward the First's seven Parliaments, and then discontinued till it was restored in the 15th of Charles I., *anno* 1640.

Feb. 16, 1660. Sir Edward Turner reported from the committee, "That the late election is a void election, as it appeared that the sheriff did not

send any precept for the same;" to which the House agreed.

Feb. 23, 1677. Mr. Williams reported from the committee, touching the election for this borough; but a debate arising whether the sheriff had duly issued his precept,

Resolved: "That the said election is a void election;" and ordered a new writ to be issued.

PETITIONS, &c. Oct. 22, 1691. A petition of Thomas Foley, esq., against the return of John Birch, esq.

No determination.

A petition of John Birch, esq., against the return of Thomas Foley, esq.

Nov. 12. Mr. Sergeant Trenchard reported from the committee, touching the said double return.

Resolved: "That Thomas Foley, esq., is duly returned and elected a burgess to serve for this borough;" which was agreed to by the House.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of Thomas Foley, esq., against the return of John Birch, esq.

Resolved: "That Thomas Foley, esq., is duly elected a burgess for this borough."

Feb. 25, 1700. A petition of the *unbribed* burgesses of this borough against the return of Henry Cornwall, esq., by means of bribery, promises, gratuities, threats, and even *confinement for their votes*, with other illegal practices.

No determination.

— 26. A petition of Capt. Charles Cornwall, against the return of Colonel Cornwall and John Birch, esqrs.

No determination.

Feb. 27. A petition of several burgesses of this borough against John Birch, esq., for bribery and other indirect practices.

No determination.

Jan. 15, 1701. A petition of Henry Cornwall, esq., against the return of John Birch, esq., by means of bribery, &c.

No determination.

Nov. 4, 1702. A petition of John Birch, esq., against the return of Henry Cornwall and Thomas Price, esqrs., by means of bribery and treats.

No determination.

Jan. 10, 1708. A petition of several burgesses and voters of this ancient borough against the undue return of Henry George, esq., by means of bribery and large promises held out to Mr. William Badham, under-sheriff of this county.

Ordered: "To be heard on the 5th of May next;"—but no report appears.

March 29, 1715. A petition of John Birch, sergeant at law, against the return of Paul Foley, esq., by means of bribery; also,

A petition of Simon Gough and John Moore against the return of Charles Cornwall, esq., a burgess for this borough; and the question being put, that the House will proceed in this petition,

It passed in the negative.

Resolved: "That Paul Foley, esq. is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That John Birch, esq., sergeant at law, is duly elected a burgess for this borough;" and the return was amended accordingly.

Resolved: "That it appears to this House, that Simon Gough is guilty of distributing money, in order to procure Paul Foley, esq., to be elected a Burgess for this borough, and that he be taken into custody of the sergeant at arms for his said offence.

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of Edward Hughes and John Carpenter, esqrs., against the return of Nicholas Philpot and John Birch, esqrs.

Jan 21, 1723. Another petition of Edward Hughes and John Carpenter, esq., the same in substance as the former.

No determination.

Parl. 7. James Cornwall, esq. petitioned against Mr. Birch on his being re-elected.

CORPORATION.

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 3, 1736. Resolved: "That the right of election of burgesses for the borough of Weobley, in the county of Hereford, is in the Inhabitants of the ancient vote-houses of twenty shillings *per annum* value and upwards, residing in the said houses forty days before the day of election, and paying scot and lot; and also in the Owners of such ancient vote-houses paying scot and lot, who shall be resident in such houses at the time of the election.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 45.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Constables.

PROPRIETOR—Marquis of Bath.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The right of election in this borough being very singular, “in the inhabitants of the ancient vote-houses of 20*s. per annum* value and upwards, residing in the said houses forty days before the days of election, and paying scot and lot; and also in the owners of such ancient vote-houses, paying scot and lot, who shall be resident in such houses at the time of election,” has given rise to very expensive contests. The Marquis of Bath, then Lord Weymouth, and the parish officers in his interest, refused to rate any persons who presumed to oppose his lordship’s nomination; upon which the aggrieved persons applied to the Court of King’s Bench for a *mandamus* to oblige the parish officers to put them in the poor rates, when the Court came to the following very extraordinary decision, 19 George II. “The Court refused to grant a *mandamus* directing to insert particular persons in the poor rate, upon affidavits of their sufficiency, and being left out, to prevent their having votes for parliamentary men; for that the remedy was by appeal; and this Court never went further, than to oblige the making the rate without meddling with the question, who is to be put in or left out, of which the parish officers are the proper judges, subject to an appeal.” The above nobleman has, however, to avoid all future expenses, since that time, bought up all the ancient vote-houses, so that this borough is now entirely at his own disposal.

ANECDOTE.

In a pension list published in the reign of Charles the Second, there appears the following instance of court corruption :

“ Sir Thomas Williams, king’s chemist, (and
“ member for Weobley,) has got 40,000*l.* by mak-
“ ing *provocatives*, &c. &c.!!!”

 HERTFORD—COUNTY.

HERTFORDSHIRE, an inland county of England, is bounded on the north by Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, on the east by Essex, on the south by Middlesex, and on the west by Buckingham and Bedford. Its shape is extremely irregular, being much indented on the western side. It is about 36 miles long, 28 broad, and 130 in circumference ; and contains 302,080 acres of land, three-fourths of which is in tillage, and the remainder in pasturage. It contains 2 boroughs, Hertford and St. Alban’s, 17 market towns, 170 parishes, 17,681 houses, inhabited by 97,577 persons, viz. 48,063 males, and 49,514 females, of whom 12,861 were returned as employed in trade, manufacture, and handicraft, and 20,611 in agriculture. Its market towns are Baldock, Barkway, Barnet, Berkhamstead, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hempstead, Hitchin, Hoddesdon, Rickmansworth, Royston, Standon,

Stevenage, Bishop's Stortford, Tring, Ware, and Watford. It is divided into 8 hundreds, viz. Braughin, Broadwater, Dacorum, Edwintree, Cashio, Hertford, Hitchin, and Odsey. It returns six members to Parliament, two for each of the boroughs, and two for the county; and lies partly in the diocese of London, and partly in that of Lincoln. It is watered by the rivers Lea, Maran, Rib, Quin, whose united waters form the New River, which supplies the inhabitants of London, in a great measure, with water, the Coln, Stort, and Verlam. The principal is the Lea, which rises near Leagrave, in Bedfordshire, passes Hertford and Ware, from whence it is made navigable to the Thames. The Coln, on the south-west side of the county, rises near Hatfield, passes Watford, and separating Bucks from Middlesex, falls into the Thames near Staines. The Stort, passing Bishop's Stortford, divides the county from Essex, and falls into the Lea near Hoddesdon. The Verlam passes St. Alban's, and falls into the Coln: and the New River rises near Ware, being conveyed by an artificial channel for a course of 36 miles to London. The northern skirt of the county is hilly, forming a scattered part of the chalky ridge which extends across the kingdom in this direction; and the number of streams in this part, by their clearness, shew the nature of the soil to be rather hard, and not rich. Flint stones are scattered over the whole face of the country with frequent beds of chalk, but with proper culture it is favourable to both wheat and barley. The western part is a tolerably rich soil,

and in good cultivation. The chief traffic of the county is in corn and the malting trade, which is mostly sent to London by the navigation of the river Lea. In this county there are neither coal mines nor extensive manufactures, except several paper-mills, the produce of which is sent to the metropolis. Its wholesome air and agreeable situation, with its vicinity to the metropolis, have rendered it a favourite residence both in ancient and modern times ; and it contains many charming seats of the nobility, gentry, and opulent merchants of the capital. Its towns, however, are of small account, and have very few manufactures. There are the traces of many ancient camps, and near St. Alban's stood *Verulam*, one of the principal stations of the Romans. The ancient *Duroli-tum* is supposed to have been at Cheshunt, and *Casaro magus* at Braughin. Before the Roman invasion it was inhabited partly by the *Cattieu-chlani* and *Trinobantes*, and the *Cassii* ; and under the Saxons it was divided between the Mercians and the Kings of Kent. The gross amount of assessment under the property tax, in 1806, was 1,138,673*l.* ; amount of money raised for the maintenance of the poor, in 1803, 71,291*l.*, being at the rate of 4*s.* 2½*d.* in the pound ; and the average number of deaths, taken from the registered burials for ten years, appears to be as 1 to 51 of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has been represented in Parliament from the first returns of Edward the First,

Feb. 7, 1620. Sir George Moor reported from the committee, for knight of Hertfordshire, Lord Faulkland of Scotland, made so after his election; and that it being rare and without precedent, it was left to the House to determine upon.

Resolved by the House: "To stay to be further advised upon the question."

April 25, 1690. There being a double return for this county of Mr. Freeman and Sir Charles Cæsar, it was considered by the Committee of Privileges, and the question depended upon allowing or not allowing the votes of Quakers.

Resolved: "That Quakers having freeholds, and *refusing to take the oath*, when tendered by the sheriff, are incapable of giving their votes for knights of the shire, for that reason."

"That Ralph Freeman, esq., is duly elected a knight of the shire for this county."—To both which resolutions the House agreed: and,

Ordered: "Sir Charles Cæsar's return to be taken off the file, as his majority consisted of Quakers !!!"

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of Robert Cecill, esq. against the return of Sir Thomas Pope Blount, and Thomas Halsey, esq., which rested upon disqualifying an elector as no freeholder, who swore himself to be one.

Resolved: "That evidence ought not to be admitted to disqualify an elector as no freeholder, who at the election *swore himself to be a freeholder.*"

The petitioner then gave evidence as to some Quakers who were refused to be polled because

they would not be sworn ; but the counsel for the petitioner said they would give the committee no more trouble.—Upon which it was

Resolved : “ That Thomas Halsey, esq., is duly elected a knight to serve for this county.”—Which resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Parl. 8. Henshaw Halsey, esq., petitioner, against Charles Cæsar, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county has the singular advantage of maintaining its independence, which it has neglected no opportunity of exerting when its own dignity, or the interests of the country, demanded a display of it. A noble instance of attachment to the cause of liberty, and to those who had the zeal and integrity to support it, occurs in their conduct to Mr. Cæsar. This gentleman had uniformly opposed the despotic measures of Sir Robert Walpole ; and, having deranged his private fortune, was arrested and imprisoned for debt in the King’s Bench, immediately upon the dissolution of Parliament. On the death of Sir T. S. Sebright, in 1736, the independent freeholders repaired to Hertford in bodies, and at their own expense proposed Mr. Cæsar, and elected him by a great majority. An express was instantly dispatched to release him from his confinement : and he was the next day restored to his liberty, and to the service and affections of his patriotic constituents.

An attempt was made in 1790 to introduce Mr.

Hale to the representation of this county under the patronage of the Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Viscount Grimstone: but it failed of success; the numbers on the poll being, for

William Plumer, esq. . . . 1,831

William Baker, esq. 1,302

William Hale, esq. 1,031

Mr. Plumer, one of the most independent and upright members of modern times, represented this county in ten Parliaments.

Mr. Baker having become an alarmist and joined the ministry, he lost his election in 1802. The numbers on the poll being, for

William Plumer, esq. 1,964

Hon. Peniston Lambe 1,212

William Baker, esq. 902

The Hon. Thomas Brand, eldest son of *Baroness Dacre*, and *Sir John Sebright*, have had the honour of representing this independent county in the two last Parliaments; Mr. Plumer having declined on account of his age and infirmities, after receiving the unanimous thanks of his constituents and a piece of plate, expressive of their grateful sense of his faithful and honored services.

HERTFORD—TOWN.

HERTFORD, or HARTFORD, a borough, and the county-town of Hertfordshire, situated on the river Lea, 21 miles from London; contains 515 3,360 inhabitants, viz. 1,762 males and 1,598 females, of whom 575 were returned as employed

in various trades and manufactures. In the time of the Britons its name appears to have been *Duro-cobriva*, signifying the Red Ford, from the colour of the gravel at the bottom of the river: others derive it from *Hart*, a deer, there formerly being great numbers here. The arms of the town are a hart couchant in the water; but the arms are most probably derived from the name of the town. The Saxon kings often kept their court here. There are two parish churches, All Saints, and St. Andrew's; in the latter is the seat for the mayor and corporation, and another for the governors of Christ's Hospital in London, they having erected a gallery in the church for the accommodation of the children of their school here, which contains about 400 boys and 60 girls, chiefly the younger children. The county gaol and penitentiary-house is a new building, very commodious and extensive. The assizes and quarter sessions are held here. The county election is held in the shire hall, erected in 1780.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town returned members to six Parliaments in Edward the First's time, to eight in Edward the Second's, and to five in Edward the Third's, and then ceased sending, after his fiftieth year, till King James the First restored it *anno regni* 21. Since which it has continued.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 7, 1640. The humble petition of the freeholders and freemen of the county and borough-town of Hertfordshire, was read; but nothing was resolved upon.

March 25, 1690. A petition of the inhabitants of this borough, shewing, that it is a borough by prescription, and, before any charter, sent members to Parliament, elected by the inhabitants, not receiving alms, and against the return of Sir William Cowper, in the room of Sir William Leman.

No report appears.

Feb. 24, 1700. A petition of William Monson, esq., against the undue return of Mr. Gulston, by means of the mayor admitting illegal votes for the petitioner.

March 7. A petition of divers inhabitants to the same effect.

Jan. 3, 1701. Another petition of William Monson, esq., to the same effect with his former.

— 7. Another petition of the inhabitants, to the same effect with their former.

— 27. *Sir Rowland Gwynn* reported from the committee, "That the right of election was the point at controversy: the petitioners' counsel insisting it to be in the inhabitants of the said borough, not receiving alms: and those for the sitting member, that the right was in the burgesses or freemen, as well as the inhabitants."

Resolved: "That the right of election for members to serve in Parliament for this borough, is in all the freemen and inhabitants, being housekeepers, and not receiving alms."

"That Richard Goulston, esq. is duly elected a burgess for this borough;" which resolutions, being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Thomas Clark, esq., against the return of Richard Goulston, esq.

Nov. 6. A petition of several inhabitants against the same return.

Resolved: "That Richard Goulston, esq. is not duly elected."

"That Thomas Clark, esq. is duly elected a Burgess for this borough."

"That the right of election is in the inhabitants not receiving alms, and in such freemen only, as, at the time of their being made free, were inhabitants of the said borough, or the parishes thereof, the number of freemen living out of the borough, not exceeding three persons:" which three resolutions, being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Nov. 24, 1708. A petition of Charles Cæsar, esq., against the return of William Monson, esq.

Feb. 9, 1709. Petition withdrawn.

March 26, 1715. A petition of Sir Thomas Clark and John Boteler, esq., against the return of Charles Cæsar and Robert Gulston, esqrs.

A petition of James Gatward, and several other freemen and inhabitants, against the return.

Resolved: "That Charles Cæsar, and Richard Gulston, esqrs., are not duly elected."

"That Sir Thomas Clark and John Boteler, esq., are duly elected burgesses for this borough:" and,

Resolved: "That Joseph Calton, mayor of this borough, is guilty of acting in an illegal and arbitrary manner at the late election, in contempt of the act 'to prevent false and double returns,' and in breach of the privilege of this House:" and ordered him to be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms for his said offence.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Sir Thomas Clark, knight, and another of James Gatward, and several freemen and inhabitants, against the return of Charles Cæsar, esq., by means of bribery and other illegal practices.

Resolved: "That Charles Cæsar, esq., is not duly elected."

"That Sir Thomas Clark is duly elected a burgess for this borough:" which resolutions, being read twice, were agreed to by the House, and the return ordered to be amended.

CORPORATION.

By charter, granted in 1624, 21 of James I., consists of a mayor, recorder, nine aldermen, and sixteen assistants.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The right of election in this borough differs from all others, it being in the inhabitants, householders, the freemen resident, and in the freemen *non-resident*, but the last description must not exceed the number *three*. It becomes necessary to remark these singularities, because they point out an incurable defect in the present system of parliamentary representation. What constitutes a good vote in one borough, makes a bad one in another. In one place the freemen must be resident, in another, non-residence gives the same qualification. In one borough, a man obtains his freedom by marriage; in a second, by birth; in a third, by servitude: in a fourth, by purchase;

in a fifth, by gift of the mayor or aldermen. Burgeholds differ as widely in the nature of their tenure; and even inhabitants are defined as variously. In one borough, paying scot and lot, and being a resident housekeeper, is an indispensable qualification; in another, paying scot and lot without residence, or being a housekeeper, constitutes eligibility for voting; in a third, residence, without paying scot and lot, or keeping a house. In short, the whole representative system is so intricate, inexplicable, contradictory, and ridiculous, that we believe it would puzzle the whole tribe of quibblers in Westminster-hall to render it more confused and unintelligible.

The town of Hertford is independent in the exercise of its elective rights, and is always represented by two neighbouring country gentlemen. This is to be attributed to the corporation not possessing the power of making non-resident freemen, or honorary burgesses, commonly called *faggots* and *mushrooms*, to create a fictitious majority over the legal electors, as is the case at Southampton, and many other places, where all the ministerial dependants in the county are called in at an election to out-number the inhabitants of the town, who pay all the taxes, and serve all public offices. No man ought to vote but in the place of his residence, and every inhabitant household in the kingdom has a right, by the constitution, to vote in his own tything and hundred, for the person who is to make the laws by which he is to be governed; and who is to be the guardian of his liberty, property, and safety.

ST. ALBAN'S.

THIS town received its name from an abbey founded here in the year 793, to the memory of Albanus, the first martyr of Britain, who suffered in the persecution under the emperor Dioclesian, and was canonized as a saint. It is generally considered as having risen out of the ruins of the ancient Verulam, which was seated on the other side of the river Ver. When Julius Cæsar invaded this island, Verulam was a large and populous city; but there are no other remains of it than the ruins of walls, some tessellated pavements, and Roman coins, which, from time to time, have been discovered by digging. It was seated on a gentle descent on the western side of the hill, fortified with a mud wall and ditch, and encompassed with woods and marshes. The inhabitants enjoyed the same rights and privileges as the Roman citizens, and this so firmly united them with the Romans, that Boadicea, considering them as enemies, razed the city, and made a most dreadful slaughter of the Romans and their allies; but Suetonius Paulinus, Lieutenant of Britain, returning from the conquest of the Isle of Man, with the fourteen legions and ten thousand auxiliaries, immediately attacked the Britons, gained a complete victory, and put eighty thousand to the sword. After this, the city was rebuilt, and the Britons lived very quietly under the Roman

government till the year 304, when Dioclesian began to persecute the Christians. At length, when the Saxons had gained a footing here, they conquered this Roman city, and called it Werlam-cester, and Watlingacester, from the famous Roman highway, called Watling-street, on which it stands.

One part of the ditch at Verulam is still visible, it is double, but irregularly formed. The streets, likewise, may still be traced, especially when the corn is nearly ripe. The composition of the Roman wall was three feet of layers of flints, and one foot made up of three courses of Roman brick ; and there were round holes quite through the wall, about eight yards distant from each other. That part of the wall by the West gate, called Gorham Block, is twelve feet thick. It would be endless to recount all the antiquities that have been dug up at Verulam ; several mosaic pavements have been seen, and one in particular was found in 1719.

Though this town is far from being remarkable for the beauty and elegance of its buildings, the country round it, being extremely pleasant, abounds with fine seats. The town is both large and populous, and has four parish churches, St. Alban's, St. Peter's, St. Stephen's, and St. Michael's, besides several meeting-houses. St. Alban's was the abbey church founded by Offa, King of the Mercians, in the year 793, on the spot where St. Alban was martyred. King Offa afterwards caused several houses to be built near this abbey for the reception of strangers and travellers,

as well as for the use of the servants and officers belonging to it ; so that in the process of time it increased to a town. In the year 1154, Nicholas, Bishop of Abba, who was born near this monastery, being chosen pope, assumed the name of Adrian IV., and granted many privileges to this abbey, causing the abbot to be the first in England both in order and dignity. At the time of the dissolution, this abbey was valued at 2,102*l.* a year by Dugdale, but at 2,510*l.* by Speed. The inhabitants then purchased that part of it which is still standing, and converted it into a parish church. It is at present a large pile of building that may justly claim a particular regard both for its antiquity and beauty. In this ancient edifice is a funeral monument and effigies of King Offa, its founder, seated on his throne. On the east side stood the shrine of St. Alban, and in the south aisle, near the above shrine, is the monument of Humphrey, brother to King Henry V., commonly distinguished by the title of the Good Duke of Gloucester. It is adorned with a ducal coronet, and the arms of France and England quartered. In niches on one side are seventeen kings, but in the niches on the other there are no statues remaining.

About fifty years ago, was discovered, in digging a grave, a pair of stairs that led down into a vault, in which was found a leaden coffin, wherein the Duke of Gloucester's corpse was preserved almost entire, by a kind of pickle in which it lay ; only the flesh was wasted from the legs, the pickle at that end of the coffin being dried up. In this

church was a very noble font of solid brass, given by Sir Richard Lea, master of the pioneers, who took it, among other plunder, out of Scotland, in the year 1543, where it served as a font for baptizing the children of the royal family, but was placed here as a common baptistry. It was, however, carried away in the civil wars in the reign of King Charles I. and converted into money.

St. Peter's church is situated on the north side of the town, and St. Michael's on the north-west; and both of them are handsome structures. In the latter, among other monuments, is one in memory of the famous Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, with his effigy in alabaster, seated in an elbow chair.

In the middle of the town of St. Alban's, King Edward I. erected a very stately cross in memory of Queen Eleanor, who, dying in Lincolnshire, was carried through this town to Westminster, in order to be interred there. The great Duke of Marlborough erected a seat here, called Holloway House; and several alms houses were built here by him and his Duchess Dowager, who caused a fine statue of the late Queen Anne, carved by Mr. Rysbrack, to be erected, on the pedestal of which she inscribed a character of her majesty.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough having returned members to Parliament in the 35th of Edward I., the 1st, 2nd, and 5th of Edward II., and 2nd, 4th, and 5th of Edward III.

In the 8th year of Edward the Second, the

famous petition of the town of St. Alban's, (recorded in the first volume of this work,) and transcribed by Mr. Madox, in his History of the Exchequer, proves that this town had sent members to Parliament from the time of that king's father, *and his progenitors*, and the same right is carried back as far as the time of King Athelstan, the Saxon, in a similar petition from the borough of Barnstaple.

PETITIONS, &c. May 21, 1660. Mr. Turner reported from the committee upon the double return for this borough, that William Foxwist, esq. is duly elected, and ought to sit: to which the House agreed.

May 30, 1685. A petition of Sir Samuel Grimston, bart., touching the election for this borough.

No determination.

Feb. 13, 1700. A petition of John Gape, esq., against the undue return of Joshua Lomax, esq., by means of using illegal practices:

March 10. Resolved: "That the right of election is in the Mayor, Aldermen, Freemen, and such Householders only, who pay scot and lot."

"That John Gape and Joshua Lomax are neither of them duly elected."—Which resolutions being twice read, were agreed to by the House.

In the course of the examining witnesses touching this election,

Mr. Fothergill, a clergyman, said that the mob were ready to pull off his gown in the streets, and insulted him when he went to speak for the petitioner, whose friends proved upon the scrutiny,

that there were twelve who voted for Mr. Lomax, having no right: that the mob threatened the mayor, in case he returned Mr. Gape, and put up these lines on his house:

"If you return Lomax, we'll be still as a mouse;

"If you return Gape, then down comes your house."

Jan. 13, 1701. A petition of Joshua Lomax, against the illegal practices used by John Gape, jun.

— 14. A petition of several householders, of and within this borough, against the same return. No determination.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Henry Killigrew, esq., against the return of John Gape, esq., by means of bribery, threats, and other unlawful practices, on his part, as also many illegal practices used by William Stone, esq., the mayor.

Resolved: "That John Gape, esq. is not duly elected."

"That Henry Killigrew, esq., is duly elected a burgess for this borough."—Which resolutions were agreed to by the House.

Nov. 24, 1705. That the right of election is in the Mayor, Aldermen, such Freemen only as have right, by birth or service, or by redemption, to trade or inhabit in the said borough, and householders paying scot and lot.

March 3, 1713. A petition of John Gape, esq., against the return of William Hale, esq.

Resolved: "That the right of election is in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Freemen, and such Household-ers only, who pay scot and lot."

“ That William Hale, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That John Gape, esq. is duly elected a burgess for this borough.”—Which resolutions were agreed to by the House.

March 26, 1715. A petition of Joshua Lomax against the return of William Grimston, esq., by means of bribery, &c., &c., &c.

May 7. Petition withdrawn.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Grimstone, and Joshua Lomax, esq.; also a petition of several inhabitants of this borough, against the return of William Gore and William Clayton, esqrs., by means of the arbitrary proceedings of William Carr, the mayor, and by bribery, &c.

Nov. 26. Both petitions withdrawn.

Parl. 8. William, Viscount Grimstone, petitioner *withdrew his petition*.

CORPORATION.

It is incorporated by charter of Edward VI., and governed by a mayor, high-steward, recorder, 12 aldermen, a town-clerk, and 24 assistants. This borough has a district, called a liberty, which has a jurisdiction both in civil and ecclesiastical matters peculiar to itself, including the parishes of Barnet, Sandridge, Redburn, Cudicot, Shepehele, Bushy, Elstree, Langley Abbot, Sarret, Walden Abbots, Hoxton, Ridge, Norton, Rickmansworth, and Watford. This liberty has a gaol and a gaol delivery, at St. Alban's, four times a year, on the Thursday after the quarter-sessions at Hertford.

St. Alban's is divided into four wards, in each of which is a constable and two churchwardens.

RIGHT OF ELECTION,

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—650.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This town has been under the patronage of Earl Spencer and Lord Viscount Grimstone for many years ; but the electors have now thrown off the yoke of both these noblemen. The members in the last and present Parliament were chosen independently of this influence.

The opposition which shivered this aristocratic combination was made by Samuel Ferrand Wadington, esq., in 1796 ; and though unsuccessful at that time, it laid the foundation of the borough's independence.

The numbers on the poll at that election were as follow :

For Lord Bingham378

Mr. Bucknal308

Mr. Wadington208

Lord Bingham was brother-in-law to Earl Spencer, and Mr. Bucknal was nephew to Lord Grimstone ; but the expenses of maintaining this influence became so intolerable, as to cause the two lords to abandon their influence.

The interest of the Grimstone family had existed above one hundred and thirty years in this borough.

At the last election the numbers on the poll were,

For Joseph Halsey, esq.....359

Christopher Smith, esq. ...357

Daniel Giles, esq.289

HUNTINGDON—COUNTY.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE, a county bounded on the north by Northamptonshire, on the east by Cambridgeshire, on the south by Bedfordshire, and on the west by Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, being about 26 miles long and 20 broad, and containing about 240,000 acres of land, of which 100,000 acres are generally in a course of tillage, 60,000 in pasturage, and of the remainder nearly 20,000 are unfit for cultivation. It is divided into four hundreds, viz. Hurstingstone, Leightonstone, Normancross, and Toreland, containing 78 parishes, one borough, and five other market-towns, viz. St. Ives, Kimbolton, St. Neot's, Ramsey, and Yaxley; 6,841 houses, inhabited by 37,568 persons, viz. 18,521 males and 19,047 females, of whom 4,484 were returned as employed in trade, manufacture, and handicrafts, and 9,536 in agriculture. The income of the inhabitants of this county, on which the property tax in 1806 was assessed, amounted to 395,019*l.*; and the poor rates in 1803 to 30,952*l.*, being 4*s.* 0*½d.* in the pound. The average scale of mortality for 10 years appears to have been to

the population as 1 to 45 5-8ths. By a return made to the House of Lords in 1805, the area of this county is stated to be 345 square statute miles, equal to 220,800 statute acres; the number of inhabitants in each square mile of 648 acres, 109, and the total number of inhabitants 37,605. It returns two members to Parliament, and two for the borough of Huntingdon, and lies in the diocese of Lincoln. Its principal rivers are the Ouse and the Nen; the former rising near Brackley in Northamptonshire, and, crossing the county, falls into the German Ocean near Lynn. The Nen rises in the same county, and forming several lakes in passing through Hunts, Cambridge, and Lincoln, falls into the German Ocean near Wisbeach. The face of the country has three varieties; on the borders of the Ouse is a rich tract of fertile meadows, of which *Partholm Mead*, near Huntingdon, enclosed by a bend of the river, is particularly celebrated. The middle and western parts are finely varied with corn and woodlands, and the upland parts were anciently an extensive forest, well adapted for the chace, whence the name of the county is derived. The north-eastern parts consist of fens, which join those of Ely, and form a large proportion of the great *Bedford Level*. Part of them are tolerably well drained, and afford good pasturage, and in the midst of them are some shallow pools abounding with fish. In short, the whole of the fen lands may be computed at one-fifth of the county. There is scarcely any manufacture carried on, except a little woolstapling and spinning of yarn, and that chiefly by women and

children. The neighbourhood of Stilton is noted for its rich and delicate cheese. In the earliest times Huntingdonshire is supposed to have been inhabited by the Iceni: during the heptarchy it formed a part of the kingdom of Mercia, and is now included in the Norfolk circuit, and is, together with Cambridge, under one sheriff. There are many remains of antiquity, particularly at Dornford, Godmanchester, and Ramsey Abbey.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has been represented in Parliament from the first summons of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. Jan. 7, 1763. A petition of Sir John Bernard, complaining of an undue return made by the sheriff of this county of Robert Apprece, esq.

Ordered, to be referred to the committee to report thereon.

Feb. 12. Colonel Birch reported, "That Mr. Apprece, the sitting member, is duly elected;" to which the House, upon a division, agreed.

Nov. 27, 1710. A petition of Sir John Cotton, bart., complaining of an undue election and return for this county.

Dec. 1. Petition withdrawn.

QUALIFICATION.

Jan 14, 1739. On a hearing for the county of Huntingdon, the counsel for the petitioner, William Mitchell, esq., insisted that the sitting member, Charles Clarke, esq., was not qualified to be elected, according to the act made in the 9th year

of the reign of Queen Anne, entitled, "An Act for securing the freedom of Parliaments by the further qualifying the members to sit in the House of Commons."

Then the counsel for the petitioner, in support of one of their objections, offered to prove, (which the counsel for the sitting member admitted,) that the copyhold lands and tenements at Hammer-smith, in the parish of Fulham, in the county of Middlesex, which the sitting member, in the rental, or particular, by him delivered in to the clerk of the House, (pursuant to the standing order of this House made for that purpose,) claims in fee, according to the custom of the manor of Fulham, under a mortgage surrender, and in admission thereto, and a release of the equity of redemption from this mortgage, were subject to a subsequent mortgage made by the said mortgager, previous to the debt of the said release of the equity of redemption.

Then the counsel for the petitioner, having objected to the consideration given for the estate, which the sitting member, in the said rental or particular, claims for his natural life by deed of feoffment, and livery and seizin thereon, given by John Clarke, of Huntingdon, gent., they offered to prove (which the counsel for the sitting member admitted,) that the said estate was all the real estate, except about three pounds *per annum*, which the said John Clarke, the grantor, was seized of at the time of the date of the said deed.

Then the counsel for the petitioner having objected to the annuity of 200*l.*, which the sitting

member, in the said rental or particular, claims for life, by grant from Charles Bernard, esq., they offered to prove (which the counsel for the sitting member admitted,) that the estate charged with the said annuity does not exceed the yearly value of 132*l*.

Then the counsel for the petitioner having objected, that the sitting member, in the oath by him taken at the time of his election, pursuant to the direction of the said act of the 9th of Anne, did not particularly enumerate all the several parishes out of which the fee-farm rents, mentioned in the said particular, are issuing.

The instrument of the said oath, subscribed by the sitting member, was produced by the sheriff, who took the same, and read.

And the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth sections of the said act, made in the 9th of Anne, were read,

And the counsel for the sitting member were heard: and one of the counsel for the petitioner was heard in reply.

And the counsel on both sides were directed to withdraw.

Mr. Clarke was heard in his place, and then he withdrew.

Resolved, “That Charles Clarke, esq. is duly elected a knight of the shire, to serve in this present Parliament for the county of Huntingdon.”

It is remarkable that this county and Cambridgeshire are united under one civil administration, there being but one high-sheriff for both, who is chosen one year out of Cambridgeshire, the second

out of the Isle of Ely, and the third out of this county.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This small county has been for many years under the joint influence of the Duke of Manchester and the Earl of Sandwich, who each nominated a member; but the Earl of Carysfort, whose ancestors represented it above a hundred years since, has succeeded in bringing in his son, Lord Proby, in opposition to this combined interest, who supported Lord Strathaven, son to the Earl of Aboyne.

The principal fortunes in this county are those of the Duke of Manchester, Earl of Sandwich, Earl of Carysfort, Sir George W. Leeds, Mr. Sparrow, Mr. Fellows, &c.

HUNTINGDON—TOWN.

HUNTINGDON is the county town of Huntingdonshire, situate near the river Ouse, over which it has a good free-stone bridge of six arches, and consists of four parishes, containing 350 houses and 2,035 inhabitants, viz. 993 males and 1,042 females, of whom 879 were returned as principally employed in trade and manufacture. From its ancient convenient neighbourhood for hunting, it is supposed to have derived its name from *Hunton down*, and it was originally built on a spot that was an entire forest. The town was recorded to have formerly had 15 parishes, but now there are only two: there are also the burying-grounds of two other parishes, in one of which is an ancient steeple. Near the church of St. Mary was an-

ciently a priory of black canons. On an eminence near the town stood a castle, erected by Edward the Elder, and enlarged by David I. of Scotland, Earl of Huntingdon. Towards the eastern side, where the principal part of the town formerly stood, the lanes which divide the enclosures from each other still retain their ancient names; and in a piece of ground, called the Priory Close, two stone coffins were dug up during the last century. It now chiefly consists of one principal street and several lanes, well paved, and lighted during the winter. The town-hall, in which the assizes are held, is a commodious and neat building, standing on one side of a large square: it contains two courts; one for criminal and one for civil causes: it has also an elegant assembly-room, ornamented with the portraits of their late and present majesties. The county assizes in March and July contribute greatly to the support of the town; and the Ouse being navigable to Bedford, it derives a great advantage from its supply of coals, wood, &c. from Lynn by barges. Its market on Saturday is noted for its sale of corn, and has a fair on 25th March.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town has sent members to Parliament since the 23rd of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. March 22, 1678. A petition of Sir Lionel Walden against the return of Mr. Stephen Wortley.

No report appears.

Feb. 15, 1700. A petition of John Pedley, esq.,

against the return of Charles Boyle, esq., complaining that a peer of the realm, with the assistance of others, with swords and clubs, did menace, assault, and strike the recorder of this borough, wounded some of the petitioners' voters, and carried others under a strong guard, forcing them to vote for his opponent, and afterwards locked them up, so that neither petitioner nor his friends could speak to them; such conduct being contrary to the liberty of the subject, &c., &c.

March 13. Resolved, *nem. con.*: "That for any peer of this kingdom, or lord-lieutenant of any county, to concern themselves in the election of members to serve for the Commons in Parliament is a high infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons of England."

Ordered: "The hearing the merits of the election for this borough be adjourned till Saturday next."

— 15. Ordered: "The hearing to be put off till the 10th of April next."

April 7, 1701. Ordered to be heard on this day three weeks.

— 25. Ordered Mr. Pedley have leave to withdraw his said petition.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of John Pedley, esq., against the return of Sir John Cotton, bart., by means of bribery and several other indirect acts.

— 13. A petition of John Negus, late mayor, and several others, against the return of Edward Wortley, esq., by means of bribery and other corrupt practices.

Jan. 22, 1706. Mr. Compton reported, "That the right of election was agreed to be in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses."

The points insisted on by the petitioner's counsel were bribery and treating.

Resolved: "That Sir John Cotton is not duly elected."

"That Edward Wortley, *alias* Montague, and John Pedley, esqrs., are duly elected burgesses for this borough;" which being read twice, was agreed to by the House;—and further

Resolved: "That Christopher Bray, being guilty of corrupt practices, in distributing money, in order to procure the election of Sir John Cotton, bart., be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms for his said offence."

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Henry Watson, and other burgesses, against an undue election for this borough.—No determination.

CORPORATION.

John, *anno* 1206, granted to this town by charter, a coroner, a recorder, a town-clerk, and two bailiffs: but Charles I. made it a mayor-town, *anno regni* 6, 1630. It has had therefore, ever since, a mayor, recorder, six aldermen, and twelve burgesses. The assizes are always held here, and in this town is the county gaol.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in the Freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—200.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—the Earl of Sandwich.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough has been under the influence of the Earl of Sandwich and his ancestors ever since the reign of Charles II., and has upon all occasions submitted to his nomination in the election of their members.

This influence has been established and supported by the profuse distribution of promotions in the navy, post-office, and other departments of government, which the noble earl and his family have had it so much in their power to dispense.

An attorney of this town, some years since, solicited, and obtained, the lucrative place of steward to the Greenwich Hospital estates, under an understanding that he was to divide the emoluments of the office amongst seven leading men in this borough ; but getting into possession of the appointment, and his patron being soon after turned out of place, he dismounted his riders, and never paid a shilling to any one of them.

KENT.

KENT, a county at the south-east extremity of England, opposite to France, bounded on the north by the river Thames, the county of Essex, and the German Sea, on the east and south-east by the English Channel, on the south by the Channel and the county of Sussex, and on the west by Surrey. It is about 63 miles long, and nearly 40 broad; containing 896,000 acres of land, having about 400,000 acres as arable, and about 200,000 acres as pasturage; the remainder being in woods, marshes, hop-grounds, &c. The county is divided into five lathes, viz. St. Augustine's, Aylesford, Scray, Shepway, and the lathe of Sutton at Hone; again subdivided into a number of small hundreds. It has two cities, Canterbury, and Rochester, two boroughs, Maidstone and Queenborough, four of the Cinque Ports, Dover, Sandwich, Romney, and Hythe, and 22 market-towns, viz. Ashford, Bromley, Cranbrook, Crayford, Cray, Dartford, Eltham, Feversham, Folkstone, Goudhurst, Gravesend, Greenwich, Lenham, Lydd, Malling, Milton, Seven Oaks, Tenterden, Tunbridge, Westerham, Woolwich, and Wrotham; containing 51,585 houses, inhabited by 307,624 persons, viz. 151,374 males and 156,250 females, of whom 43,253 were returned as employed in trade, handicraft, and manufactures, and 54,124 in agriculture. The amount of assessment under the property tax, April 1806, was 3,164,643*l.*, and the assess-

ment for the maintenance of the poor, in 1803, was 255,452*l.*, being at the rate of 5*s.* 2*d* $\frac{1}{4}$. in the pound. The average scale of mortality for 10 years appears to have been as 1 to 41 1-3*d* of the population. By a return delivered to the House of Lords, and printed in 1805, it appears that the area of this county is 1462 square statute miles, equal to 935,680 statute acres; the number of inhabitants in each square mile containing 640 acres, 210; and the total number of persons, 307,120. The principal river besides the Thames is the Medway, which comes from Sussex, and, joined by a number of rivulets, passes Maidstone and Rochester and falls into the mouth of the Thames between the isles of Sheppey and Grain. The Stour is a small stream which passes Canterbury, and falls into the sea near Sandwich, and the Rother, being the boundary between Kent and Sussex, falls into the sea at Rye. The southern part, called the Weald, is a flat, woody tract, having a clayey soil, fruitful, but unhealthy from its moisture; it terminates in Romney Marsh, and was formerly one immense forest, inhabited only by herds of deer and hogs belonging to the king. There are still some woodlands in their original state. The open part of East Kent, betwixt Canterbury, Dover and Deal, has a variety of soils, viz. chalk, loam, mould, and stiff clay, and some small tracts of flint, gravel, and sand. The woodland here affords fuel, timber for the dock-yards, and poles for the numerous hop plantations. The soil towards Faversham, Sandwich, and Deal, is particularly fertile, and the hop-grounds produce those

fine East Kent hops so much in repute among those who brew the best ale and porter. The north-eastern part of the county towards Dover has a hard chalky soil, and the white cliffs which bound the island here give it that striking appearance whence it obtained anciently the name of Albion. Two chains of hills run through the middle of Kent, called the Upper and Lower Hills. The Midland and Western districts are a happy mixture of hill and vale, arable and pasture, equal in pleasantness and variety of product to any part of England. Its principal productions are large fat oxen, hops, fruit, and oak timber. The air is in general thick, foggy, and warm, from its nearness to the sea, and the marshy parts are very unhealthy, the inhabitants being much afflicted with the ague.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county is near the metropolis of England, and bounds upon the ocean. It has been represented in Parliament from the earliest period, and has the honour never to have had an election controverted by petition, except in the single instance of Filmer Honeywood, esq., and several electors, who petitioned against the return of Sir William Geary, bart. in 1796, when the committee determined that Sir William Geary was duly elected, and that the petitions were not frivolous nor vexatious.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This opulent and flourishing county maintains a proud resistance to ministerial and aristocratic

influence, and has demonstrated its zeal for independence by the noble stand it has made, and the triumph it has so often obtained in returning Filmer Honeywood, esq., four times to Parliament, against the combined influence of the church, the ministry, and the greatest part of the nobility of this county.

It must, at the same time be regretted that this constitutional and patriotic spirit has never, in our time been able to establish the entire independence of the county. The cathedrals of Canterbury and Rochester; the Duke of Dorset, Marquis Camden, and other opulent noblemen, and the overwhelming influence which the government possesses over the dock-yards of Chatham, Sheerness, Woolwich, and Deptford; the arsenals, garrisons, barracks, and custom-houses, which are so plentifully distributed all over this county, give the ministry the absolute nomination of one of the members, and he in return manifests his gratitude by never voting against any of their measures.

This county is chiefly indebted for the independence which it possesses to that noble relique of Saxon institution, the gavel-law, by which all the sons in equal shares are partakers of the father's fortune.

A similar law prevails in France, under the new constitution, but with this distinction, that the daughters as well as the sons are inheritors in an equal degree. The French have certainly in this instance, with great justice and liberality, peculiar to themselves, much improved upon this equitable system of our Saxon progenitors.

The special customs incident to gavel-kind in Kent are,

That the husband, after his wife's death, enjoys a moiety of her inheritance in gavel-kind by courtesy, whether he has children by her or not, until he marries again.

The wife, after the death of her husband, has for her dower a moiety of his lands in gavel-kind, for so long a time as she shall continue unmarried, and in chastity.

The tenant of gavel-kind lands is kept in ward one year longer than is permitted by the common law, that is, till he is fifteen years of age, at which time he is of sufficient age to alien his estate by feoffment.

Lands in gavel-kind, if the tenant commits felony, and submits to the judgment of the law, are not forfeited; nor do they escheat to the king, or other lord of whom they are holden; nor has the king year, day, and waste of lands in gavel-kind, holden of a common person, when the tenant is executed for felony.

The tenant had a power of devising lands by will, before the statute for that purpose was made, in the 32d year of King Henry VIII.

Lands in gavel-kind descend to all the sons alike in equal portions; and if there are no sons, then equally among the daughters; and as to the chattles, it was formerly part of the custom of this county to divide them after the funeral, and the debts of the deceased were discharged into three parts, if he left any lawful issue behind him; of which three, one portion was to the dead for the

performance of legacies ; another to his children for education ; and a third to the wife for her support and maintenance.

Furthermore, if the tenant of gavel-kind lands withdraws from his lord his due rents and services, the custom of this gives the lord a special and solemn kind of *cessavit*, called *gavelet*, by which, unless the tenant redeems his lands by payment of the arrearages, and makes reasonable amends for withholding the same, they become forfeited to the lord, and he enters into them, and occupies them as his own demesnes.

The tenants in gavel-kind in this county claim the privilege, that where a writ of right is brought concerning *gavel-kind* lands, that the *grand assize* shall not be chosen in the usual manner by four knights, but by four tenants in gavel-kind, who shall not associate to themselves twelve knights, but that number of tenants in gavel-kind ; and further, that trial by battle shall not be allowed in such a writ for these lands.

This maritime county has little changed in its name ; it being called Centium, or Κέντιον, by Cæsar, Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, Ptolemy, and other Roman and Greek authors. The Saxons called it Gaut-Guarlant, or the county of the inhabitants of Kent ; but whence the name was originally derived, has been a subject of much speculation : Mr. Lambard is of opinion, that the name of Kent is derived from the British word Caine, which signifies a green leaf, and was applied to this county from its being shaded with woods ; but Camden supposes that it derived its name from its

form being an angle stretching into the sea. This opinion seems to be well founded, from such a point being called in Scotland, Cantir; Ptolemy calls the inhabitants of another point in North Britain, Cantæ, and the Cangani were possessed of such an angle in Wales.

This county, according to Cæsar, was, in the time of the Britons, governed by four petty kings, or rather by four of the principal inhabitants, appointed to defend them against their enemies. Cæsar being in Gaul, obtained such a knowledge of this island, as to enable him to invade it twice with some success; and, by repeated attempts, the Romans became not only masters of Kent, but of all England, when this county was put under the government of Britannia Prima. But the Romans being afterwards obliged to leave the island, the Britons elected several princes; and at last chose Vortigern their chief, in order to stop the ravages of the Picts and Scots. And, by consent of his people, he invited the Saxons to his assistance, who landed with the Angles and Jutes, under their two leaders, Hengist and Horsa, in the Isle of Thanet, in this county. Having joined with Vortigern, and assisted him in the conquest of his enemies, Hengist obtained the government of Kent. Soon after, South Britain was divided into seven petty kingdoms, called the Heptarchy; the first of them was that of Kent, which had successively seventeen kings; the last was Baldred, when Egbert conquered Kent; then, after being a separate kingdom 372 years, it became subject to

the Saxon and Danish kings of England, until the Norman Conquest.

William the Conqueror having fought the battle at Hastings, in Sussex, was marching towards London, when he was met by a large body of the men of Kent, each carrying a bough or limb of a tree in his hand. This army, which had the appearance of a moving wood, boldly marched up to him, and demanded the preservation of their liberties, and informed William they were determined to die before they would be deprived of them, and submit to bondage; but if he would grant them their equitable request, they would submit to his government. William, being so much struck with the spirit and justice of their request, wisely granted what they asked, and thus were they suffered to retain those ancient customs for which this county has ever since been so justly distinguished.

The Conqueror, thus possessed of Kent, secured it by appointing a constable of Dover Castle, and constituting him governor of five ports, with the style and title of the warden of the Cinque Ports, which are Hastings, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Sandwich, to which Winchelsea and Rye are annexed as principals, and with some other towns as members; all of which enjoy many considerable immunities.

As the county of Kent is divided into the two great districts of East and West Kent, so is the distribution of justice in it; for, though every justice of peace is, by the commission, appointed

for the whole county at large, yet he usually confines his acting in that office, (except upon extraordinary occasions), to that district of the two in which he resides, and in common matters to that particular division of justices of the lath and hundred to which he belongs.

Each district holds its own court of sessions four times in the year: viz. twice originally, and twice by adjournment; the eastern district originally at the Old Castle of Canterbury, from whence it is adjourned for the western district to the county-town of Maidstone; and the western district originally at Maidstone, from whence it is adjourned for the eastern district to Canterbury.

CANTERBURY CITY.

CANTERBURY CITY, in the hundred of Bridge and Petham, lathe of St. Augustine, Kent, the capital of the county, $55\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London, an archbishop's see, and the metropolitan of all England. It is situated in a pleasant valley between hills of a moderate height and easy ascent, with fine springs rising from them; besides which the river Stour passes here, and dividing into several small streams, form islands of various sizes, in one of which the west part of the city stands. It contains 16 parishes, 2,018 houses, and 10,498 inhabitants, being 4,489 males and 6,009 females, of whom 1,450 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. It was the Durovernum of the Romans. The Britons called it *Caer Kent*, that is, the city of Kent. It is mentioned as a city in Antoninus's Itinerary, and its ancient importance appears from the strong military causeways leading to Dover and Lymme through the city, as well as the many Roman vestiges and coins found in and about the neighbourhood; and its archiepiscopal and metropolitan dignity seems also to have been settled very early. This city was given entirely to the bishops by William Rufus; and it was held in particular veneration after the murder of Becket, in the reign of Henry II., to whose shrine so great was the offering, that, Erasmus says, the whole church and chapel in which he was interred glittered with jewels. The cathedral has been several

times destroyed by fire: the present was built about the year 1174; but not entirely completed till the reign of Henry V. A number of kings, princes, cardinals, and bishops, are buried in it. The four principal streets are disposed in the form of a cross, and divided into six wards, subdivided into 21 streets, 56 lanes, and 62 alleys. It is called the city and county of the city of Canterbury. Every Monday a court is held at Guildhall for civil and criminal causes, and every other Tuesday for the government of the city. The magistrates have authority to try capital offences within their liberty, the mayor sitting as judge, assisted by the recorder, who pronounces the sentence. Great improvements have been made here within the last 15 years. The streets, which were formerly paved with flints, are now smooth pavements; all the old signs and projecting buildings removed, and well lighted with lamps, and a well-regulated watch set at ten o'clock. A slip of land, called *Dunge-hill*, of about six acres, having an artificial mount, is now converted into a city mall, the sides adorned with spiral walks to the top, the old towers with shrubberies, and the old ramparts are also converted into a beautiful terrace. The Guildhall, in High-street, is a handsome and lofty building, adorned with the portraits of the city benefactors. Its manufactories are worsted, silk, and cotton; the former furnishes employment for several hundred persons, particularly that called Canterbury muslins. The city is surrounded on all sides with extensive hop grounds, and is famed for its excellent brawn. The diocese of Canterbury contains 257 parishes, besides chapels, in

Kent, and about 100 more in other dioceses. These are called peculiars, it being an ancient privilege of this see, that wheresoever the archbishop had manors or advowsons, the place was exempted from the jurisdiction of the ordinary of the diocese where it was situate, and was deemed in the diocese of Canterbury. The archbishop is primate and metropolitan of all England, and is the first peer in the realm, having precedence of all dukes, not of the blood royal, and of all the great officers of state. At coronations, he places the crown on the king's head, and wherever the court may be, the king and queen are his proper domestic parishioners. The Bishop of London is his provincial dean; the Bishop of Winchester his sub-dean; the Bishop of Lincoln his chancellor; and the Bishop of Rochester his chaplain. To the cathedral belongs one archbishop, one dean, one chancellor, one archdeacon, twelve prebends, six preachers, six minor canons, six substitutes, twelve lay clerks, ten choristers, two masters, fifty scholars, and twelve almsmen. The mayor is chosen 14th September, and sworn in on St. Michael's day. Markets, Wednesday and Saturday. Fair, 10th October.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This ancient city has returned members to Parliament from the 23d of Edward I. to the present time.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 20, 1695. A petition of Henry Lee, esq., against the return of Sir William Honeywood and George Sayers, esqrs., by means of undue practices.

Ordered: "To be referred to the Committee of Privileges."

March 5, 1696. Petition withdrawn.

March 30, 1715. A petition of Sir Francis Head, bart., against the return of John Hardress, esq., by means of threats, illegal votes, and other undue practices.

No determination.

Parl. 16. John Trotter, esq., James Winch, and other voters, petitioned.

Parl. 18. George Gipps, esq., and Sir John Honeywood, bart., petitioned.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, a recorder, 12 aldermen, a sheriff, 24 common-councilmen, a sword-bearer, and four sergeants at mace. A court is held every Monday at the Guildhall for civil and criminal causes, and every other Tuesday for the government of the city. It is divided into six wards. At the beginning of Henry III., it was governed by bailiffs; but in the 26th of Henry VI. it was changed into the above mayoralty, *anno* 1449.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is vested in the Freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1000.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Sheriff.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city is entirely independent in its election of members of Parliament, and is neither under the influence or control of any patron or leading man.

ROCHESTER CITY.

ROCHESTER, a city containing three parishes in the lathe of Aylesford, Kent, situated in an angle of the river Medway, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Maidstone, and 30 from London ; containing 940 houses and 5,645 inhabitants, exclusive of Stroud, viz, 2,481 males and, 3,164 females, of whom 783 were employed in trade. It was called by the Britons *Dourbrys*, by the Romans *Durobrivæ*, and by the Saxons *Roffcaster*, from whence its present name. A church was first erected here about the year 600, by Ethelbert king of Kent, which was rebuilt about the 11th century, by Bishop Gundulph, and consecrated in 1130 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of Henry I. The present steeple was erected about the year 1749. Gundulph's Tower, or the castle on the north side of the cathedral, is supposed to have been originally erected by that bishop, as a repository for the archives and treasures of the see. It was originally 60 feet high, but is now much reduced. The walls are six feet thick, and enclose an area of 20 feet square. It was divided into five floors or stories of unequal height. The bridge over the Medway was formerly of wood, but toward the end of the 14th century, it being in a ruinous state, the present one of stone was erected, at the joint expense of Sir Robert Knolles and Lord Cobham, who also contributed donations of land, which have been followed by many considerable bene-

factions toward keeping the same in repair. This bridge is 560 feet long and 15 broad. It is formed with 11 arches, the largest being about 40 feet wide. The last repairs of the city walls and castle appear to have been in the reign of Edward VI., from which time they have been suffered to go to decay. Several attempts have been made to pull the castle down, but it was found too durable to pay for the expense of re-scaling the stones. This castle is so lofty that it may be seen at the distance of 30 miles. The two towns are connected by a long row of buildings on a gentle eminence, called the Bank. In the cemetery, on the north side of the cathedral, is the church belonging to the parish of St. Nicholas. The episcopal palace is at Bromley, no bishop having resided here since the Reformation. The town-hall, erected in 1687, is a handsome brick structure, supported by stone columns of the Doric order; the area is paved with Purbeck stone, at the back part of which is the city gaol. The entrance to the hall is by a spacious stair-case, the ceiling of which, as well as that of the hall, is curiously ornamented. Here the city business is transacted, and the assizes for the county sometimes held. The clock-house was built in 1686, at the expense of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, who also gave the clock: the whole repaired and beautified at the city's expense in 1771. The main street is wide and well paved, in it formerly stood the corn-market cross. Near the custom-house is a building founded for the reception of six poor travellers, who, being neither

Thieves nor *Proctors*, are to receive one night's lodging, food, and 4*d.* each.

The river Medway has an excellent oyster fishery, and the mayor holds an admiralty court relating to the river annually. The Roman road, called Watling-street, passes through this town from Shooter's-hill to Dover.

Many lands in this county are still held by the ancient tenure of castle-guard; that is, upon condition that the tenant, in his turn, should mount guard at the castle; but a composition is taken for this service, which the tenants are obliged to pay; for, upon the day appointed, a flag is hung out from that part of the castle which is still kept in repair, and such of the tenants as do not then appear and pay their quit-rents, are liable, at Rochester, to have them doubled at every return of the Medway.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city returned members to Parliament from the 23rd of Edward I. to the present time.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 3, 1680. A petition of the inhabitants of this city.

Ordered to be referred to the committee.

Jan. 6, 1701. A petition of William Cage, esq., against the return of James Hales, esq., by means of treats, threats, and promises.

No report appears.

Imp. Parl. 3. Several of the electors petitioned against the election of James Barnet, esq. The committee found the sitting member duly elected, Feb. —, 1807.

CORPORATION.

Rochester was made a mayor-town 1 Edw. IV. Here are, by its incorporation 1619, a mayor, recorder, 11 aldermen, and 12 common-council, a town-clerk, three sergeants at mace, and a water-bailiff. Once a year, or oftener, the mayor and citizens of Rochester hold what is called an admiralty-court, to appoint times when oysters shall be taken out of their fishery, and settle the quantity each drudger shall take in a day.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in all the Freemen not receiving alms or charity. March 2, 1807.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—630.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Admiralty, one member.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city, owing to its being in the vicinity of Chatham, feels the influence of the admiralty, dock-yard, custom-house, and revenue officers, too powerfully to assert a claim to actual independence. The number of its electors not being limited to a self-elected corporation, prevents their representation from being entirely at the disposal of the admiralty; but it has always been customary to compliment that board with the recommendation of one of them.

James Hulkes, esq., an eminent banker of the city, is at the head of the independent interest, supported by Mr. Larkins, a person of consider-

able talents, and a very respectable part of the corporation.

Mr. Hulkes has represented the city himself, and in 1706 succeeded in returning both members; but the influence of government has at all other times prevailed in bringing in one of its representatives.

MAIDSTONE.

MAIDSTONE, a borough in the hundred of Maidstone, and lathe of Aylesford; the county town of Kent, $34\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London, on the river Medway, over which it has a bridge of seven arches, and whence it is supposed to derive its name. It contains 1,330 houses and 8,027 inhabitants, viz. 3,835 males and 4,192 females, of whom 5,196 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures, and 1,306 in agriculture. It consists of four principal streets, which meet at the market-cross. The greatest trade of the town arises from the extensive hop plantations in the neighbourhood, and large orchards of apples and cherries, peculiar to this part of the county. The tide renders the river navigable here for vessels of 50 or 60 tons burthen, by which great quantities of timber and corn are conveyed. The county gaol is a very extensive, strong, and modern building, and the assizes for the county are held here.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was incorporated by King Henry VI., and made a mayor-town, and privileged to

send members to Parliament, but lost it on account of Wyatt's rebellion, and regained it in the 2d. of Queen Elizabeth.

PETITIONS, &c. Jan. 5, 1701. A petition of Thomas Colepepper, esq., against the return of Thomas Blisse, esq., whose agents treated and bribed the electors, and in a tumultuous manner, with trumpets and horsemen, paraded the town, broke open the doors and windows of some, and not only threatened, but attempted to fire the houses of others, who had declared in favour of the petitioner, and that Mr. Blisse was returned also by means of unqualified voters, who received alms, or lived in alms-houses.

Feb. 8. Sir Rowland Gwynn reported, "That it appeared to the committee, that upon the poll there were

For Mr. Blisse 339

Mr. Colepepper . . 337

"That the right of election was agreed to be in the Freemen not receiving alms or charity."

The counsel for Mr. Blisse insisted, that there were more who received alms, who voted for the petitioner than for his client; and they would clear him from ill practices, and prove such practices against the petitioner; and several witnesses proved a libel on the part of the petitioner, in circulating a printed paper, called "A Letter to the Freeholders and Freemen of England."

— Thacker, another witness, said, that Dr. Smith, Mr. Thomas Colepepper, and others, dined at Sir Thomas Colepepper's, and one of them said Mr. Howe had delivered an address to the king,

who had received it with a particular favour:—
Dr. Smith said it was a d—sh lie, and the party would say any thing, *but they must outlie them.*

Resolved: “That Thomas Blisse, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough.”

“That Thomas Colepepper, esq., has been guilty of corrupt, scandalous, and indirect practices, in endeavouring to procure himself to be elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough.”

The first resolution being read twice, was agreed to by the House.

The second resolution being read a second time, a printed libel (sent in a letter by Mr. Colepepper,) was read, entitled, “A letter to the Freeholders and Freemen of England,” an amended one was proposed and agreed to, by adding these words after ‘esquire,’ “who was one of the instruments in promoting and presenting the scandalous, insolent, and seditious petition, called the Kentish petition, to the last House of Commons.”

Resolved: “That Thomas Colepepper, esq., in promoting and presenting the said scandalous, insolent, and seditious petition, has been guilty of corrupt, scandalous, and indirect practices, in endeavouring to procure himself to be elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough.”

Resolved: “That the aspersing the last House of Commons, or any member thereof, with receiving French money, or being in the interest of France, was a scandalous, villainous, and groundless reflection, tending to sedition, and to create

a misunderstanding between the king and his people."

Resolved: "That Thomas Colepepper, esq., is guilty of promoting the said scandalous, villainous, and groundless reflection upon the said House of Commons; and that the said Thomas Colepepper, for his said offence, be committed to his majesty's gaol of Newgate;" and

Ordered: "That his majesty's attorney-general do prosecute the said Thomas Colepepper for his said crimes."

Oct. 24, 1702. A petition of Sir Thomas Twisden, bart., and Thomas Blisse, esq., against the return of Sir Robert Marsham and Sir Thomas Roberts, by means of bribery and other unlawful practices.

Bribery, &c. being proved, both against the petitioners and sitting members, it was

Resolved: "That Sir Robert Marsham, Sir Thomas Roberts, Sir Thomas Twisden, barts., and Thomas Blisse, esq., are none of them duly elected; which being read twice, was agreed to by the House.

Resolved: "That the late election of burgesses for the said borough is a void election;" and

"That no new writ be issued during this session for electing burgesses for the said borough;" and further

Resolved: "That Gervas Heley, being guilty of indirect and corrupt practices, in order to procure members to be elected for this borough, be, for his said offence, committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Dec. 1, 1710. A petition of Sir Richard Beale against the return of Sir Robert Marsham, by means of bribery and several other indirect practices.

No determination.

Parl. 7. Sir Burnham Rider, knt., and John Hamilton, esq., petitioned.

Parl. 18. The mayor and some of the freemen (in the interest of Christopher Hull, esq.,) petitioned against the election of Oliver de Lancey, esq. On the 15th of May, the chairman reported, that Oliver de Lancey was duly elected, and that the petition and the opposition made to it was not frivolous or vexatious.

Imp. Parl. 5. Sir Matthew Bloxam and some of the voters petitioned against the election of George Longman and George Simpson, esqrs., but the committee found the sitting members duly elected. Feb. —, 1807.

CORPORATION.

The town of Maidstone was anciently governed by a portreeve and twelve brethren, and continued so till King Edward VI., by his letters patent, July 4, in his 3d year, newly incorporated the town, by the style and title of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, of the town of Maidstone, in the county of Kent.

These privileges were not long afterwards forfeited by the rebellion, first begun in this town by Sir Thomas Wyatt, knt., and other principal gentlemen of it, in the 1st year of Queen Mary.

In this state of disfranchisement the town re-

mained till Queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent December 4, in her 2d year, again incorporated it with the like style as before, and some other additional privileges, among which was a confirmation of their ancient prescriptive right of sending two burgesses to Parliament, the granting to the mayor the authority of a justice of the peace, and the exempting of the townsmen from foreign sessions.

Some years after which, several doubts arising concerning the validity and meaning of the different parts of the last mentioned letters patent, a third charter of incorporation was granted to this town by King James I., by letters patent, dated Dec. 31, in his 2d year, anno 1604, by the name and style of "mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and parish of Maidstone," wherein all the privileges of the former were confirmed, and new ones granted by it. After which a fourth charter was likewise granted by the same king, in his 17th year, anno 1619. King Charles II., by letters patent in his 34th year, anno 1682, incorporated this town anew, by the like style and title as the former; which charter was made use of in the government of this place till the Revolution in 1688, after which it was entirely laid aside.

In the reign of King George II. this corporation being dissolved by judgment of *ouster* against its principal members, upon informations of *quo warranto*, a new charter was granted by that king, by letters patent dated at Westminster, June 17, in his 21st year, anno 1748; in which it is recited, that

divers disputes having arisen of late within this town and corporation, and informations in nature of *quo warranto* having been prosecuted in the King's Bench, and judgment of *ouster* obtained against all the acting jurats, so that the corporation was then dissolved, and the town incapable of enjoying their liberties and franchises, therefore the king, for divers causes therein mentioned, upon the petition of the freemen, freeholders, and other inhabitants of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, granted that the town and parish should be a free town and parish of itself; and that the inhabitants of the same should be one body politic and corporate, by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, in the county of Kent," and by that name to have perpetual succession, and to acquire and hold lands, &c. and to alien the same, and by the aforementioned name to plead and be impleaded; and that they and their successors might have a common seal, and might break, change, and new make the same at their liking; and that the said town and parish, and the liberties and precincts thereof, should extend according to the former ancient boundaries thereof; and that there should be thirteen inhabitants of the said town and parish, who should be chosen jurats of the same, one of whom should be chosen mayor of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, which jurats, not being in the office of mayor, should be assistants to him in every thing; and that there should be forty of the remaining principal inhabitants chosen common-councilmen of the same, all of whom, viz.

mayor, jurats, and common-councilmen, should have power, upon public summons, to make bye-laws; and that the jurats should be elected by the mayor, jurats and common-councilmen, duly assembled; and the common-councilmen in like manner, with a fine at the discretion of the said mayor, &c. for their refusal of those offices, any of whom should be removed by the mayor, &c., duly assembled, for any sufficient crime or notorious offence; and that the jurats should assemble on the 2d day of November yearly within the said town, and then nominate two men, then being jurats, for the rest of the jurats and commonalty then present to elect one out of the two to be mayor; and that the person so chosen should take an oath before the then last mayor, or in his absence the two senior jurats then present, for the due execution of his office; and in case of his death, that a successor should be chosen in like manner; and that the mayor, in case of sickness or absence, should appoint one of the jurats a deputy mayor for the time aforesaid; and that the mayor and jurats should elect a recorder, to hold his office during their pleasure; and that he should have power to make a deputy recorder during his pleasure; and that the mayor, jurats, and common council should appoint one or two sergeants at mace, who should bear one or two gilt or silver maces, engraved with the king's arms, every where within the said town and parish before the mayor.

By the above charter the corporation act at this time, their exclusive jurisdiction as such extending over the town and parish of Maidstone, and on

the river Medway, from East Farleigh Bridge to a piece of land called Hawkwood, in Burham, in all matters whatsoever as within the same; and for the cognizance and determination of actions and replevins to the further extent of the towns and parishes of East Farleigh, Barming, Loze, Boxley, Allington, Linton, and Otham, and the hamlets of Mithale in Aylesford, and Newwhythe, in the parish of East Malling.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in the Freemen not receiving alms or charity,
7th Feb. 1701. 8th Dec. 1702.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough is divided into a ministerial and opposition party; the former generally prevails in returning the members.

The price of theseats is from three to five thousand pounds each at every election, and the voters receive a stated sum for their journey, if they reside at a distance, and a further sum for their votes.

A well-known character, who represented this borough in five parliaments, was so hard run by his opponent at one election, that a few votes would turn the scale in favour of either candidate. About twenty freemen had secreted themselves in a hay-loft to wait the event of the poll, and obtain a higher price for their suffrages. The candidate having discovered their retreat, attempted an interview with these *honest* electors, but they had se-

cured the citadel by drawing up the ladder, and barricading the entrance. In vain he implored them "to come down and save their country;" they would listen to nothing till their demands were complied with, which being done, they suffered themselves to be led to the hustings, as a *reserved corps*, to decide the fate of the day.

QUEENBOROUGH.

QUEENBOROUGH, a borough and market-town, situated at the west end of the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, at the mouth of the Medway, 45 miles from London; containing 128 houses and 545 inhabitants. The houses are neat, uniform, and regularly built. The chief employment here is in fishing, principally *that of oysters*; but it has a small copperas manufactory. Near the centre of the town is a newly erected Guildhall, very neatly finished, and supported by four columns; beneath which is held a trifling market, and it contains also the town gaol. This place is a distinct liberty of itself, under its own magistrates, who hold quarterly courts and general sessions every half year.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was first represented in Parliament in the 13th of Queen Elizabeth.

PETITIONS, &c. March 28, 1679. A petition of Edward Hales, complaining of undue practices used by the mayor of this borough in returning James Herbert, esq.

No determination.

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of William Glanville, esq.

Jan. 8, 1681. Resolved: "That James Herbert, esq., is not duly elected."

"That William Glanville, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough;" which resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Dec. 4, 1710. A petition of Sir John Jennings, knt., against the return of James Herbert and Thomas King, esqrs., by means of gross bribery and other undue practices.

No determination.

March 3, 1713. A petition of James Herbert, esq., against the return of Charles Fauthersby, by means of bribery and various other corrupt practices.

— 6. Petition withdrawn.

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of John, Lord Viscount Carmichael and Colonel Thomas King against the return of John Cope and James Lytleton, esqrs., by means of bribery and other unlawful practices—and also doubting the qualification of Mr. Cope to be elected to serve in Parliament.

Another petition from the same to the same effect.

March 11, 1723. Petition withdrawn.

Parl. 7. Sir Jeremy Vanacker Sambrook, bart., petitioned against Sir George Saunders—withdrew his petition the same session.—Petitioned again the second session against Mr. Evans, the sitting member, who was declared duly elected.

April 18, 1729. Resolved: "That the right of admitting burgesses is in the mayor, jurats, and bailiffs only.

CORPORATION.

The burgesses were first incorporated by Edward III., who granted to them the privilege of choosing, annually, a mayor and two bailiffs. The present corporation was established by a charter of Charles I., and consists of a mayor, four jurats, and two bailiffs, a constable, town-sergeant, and a water-bailiff. It has likewise the cognizance of pleas.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

The right of election has never been disputed in Parliament. But in 1729 it was agreed to be in the mayor, jurats, bailiffs, and burgesses.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRONS—Ordnance and Admiralty.

NUMBER OF VOTERS. Before Mr. Crewe's bill, there were 152; but 21 being disqualified by that bill, there are only 131. At present, out of 131 persons entitled to vote for this borough, 23 hold places under the ordnance, and 11 under the admiralty, of whose situations and emoluments we have here annexed a correct account. There are also seven officers in the navy, one in the artillery, and 14 or 15 ordnance labourers on the gun-wharfs at Sheerness and Purfleet. In time of war the ordnance interest is considerably encreased by the employment of Queenborough boats, and extra draft for carrying stores.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough has been very justly considered for many years as a government borough; for there has been no instance since 1727, although there has been many contested elections, of any member being returned in opposition to administration. From 1727 to 1754, the elections were carried on by the united interests of government and Captain Evans, who resided in this place, and had the lead for many years in the corporation. From 1754 until the present time, the interest has been divided between the boards of ordnance and admiralty; each has constantly carried a member; and for the last sixteen years, by the mere power of office, in opposition to the corporation, and to the influence of the Evans family.

The systematic application of the patronage of the board of ordnance to the purposes of acquiring an influence in this borough, has been attended with a progressive increase of their establishment on the Thames and Medway, and a very large addition to the expense of carrying on the service by vessels employed on those rivers. It appears from official documents laid before the House of Commons, that it amounted in 1754 to 742*l.*; but it now amounts (exclusive of the expense of vessels the property of government,) to 2,190*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* How far the real exigencies of the public service may require and justify so considerable an augmentation, we cannot pretend to decide, as those who are most competent have so widely differed

in their opinions on the subject. On the conclusion of the last war, Lord Townshend, the master-general of the ordnance, ordered the establishment (the expense of which was then 250*l. per annum* less than at present,) to be reduced. But it has since, by his successor the Duke of Richmond, been thought necessary to be encreased.

This town, which is the most principal in the Isle of Sheppy, has the greatest claim to antiquity. Its castle was erected so early as Edward III., who is said, likewise to have built the town in honour of his queen. The castle appears to have been erected not only for defence, but as a place of refuge whenever the inhabitants were invaded. The castle becoming ruinous, was repaired by Henry VIII., who, at the same time, caused block-houses to be erected along the sea-coast. This town seems to have been one of those that were not suffered to exercise the first right of citizens, that of sending representatives to Parliament, until royalty chose to extend to them the privilege. And this essential franchise to the liberty of the subject was not allowed to the inhabitants until the 12th of Elizabeth.

List of Places under the Ordnance and Navy Boards, held by the Freemen of Queenborough, with their Annual Salaries, and the Number of Freemen holding them respective under the Ordnance.

No. of Free- men.	Names of Places.	Ann. Salaries.	
		£	s. d.
1	Purveyor of Shipping	170	0 0
1	Storekeeper at Sheerness 100	0	0 0
1	And Barrack Master, at 3s. <i>per</i> day	54	15 0
		154	15 0
1	Clerk of the Survey at Woolwich	100	0 0
1	Clerk of the Checque at Sheerness	80	0 0
1	Clerk of the Survey at Chatham	130	0 0
1	Clerk in the Clerk of the Checque's office, at Sheerness	50	0 0
1	Overseer of Labourer's at Sheer- ness, at 3s. 6d. <i>per</i> day	63	17 6
2	Sluice Masters, at 2s. <i>per</i> day each	73	0 0
1	Wharf-man at the Tower, at 2s. <i>per</i> day	56	10 0
1	Gunner at Sheerness	21	0 0
1	Master of a Gun-Hoy at £160 <i>per</i> <i>ann.</i> for himself, and to find three men when on service	160	0 0
	Carried forward	1039	2 6

No. of Free- men.	Names of Places.	Ann. Salaries.
		£. s. d.
	Brought forward.....	1039 2 6
1	Master of a Sloop, at £270 <i>per ann.</i> for himself and seven men	270 0 0
4	Masters of Powder-Boats, at £168 <i>per ann.</i> each, for himself, and to find two men and a boy when on service	672 0 0
6	Masters of Sloops, Powder-Boats, or Gun-Hoys, at £48 <i>per ann.</i> each	288 0 0
23		
		2269 2 6

UNDER THE NAVY.

5	Masters of Transports, Lighters, or Long-boats, at about £40 <i>per ann.</i> each	200 0 0
1	Quartermaster in Sheerness Yard ..	
2	Boatswains	
1	Ship Carpenter	
1	Purser	
1	Gunner	
11		

Dover
Sandwich
Hythe
Romney

} will be given under the head
of "CINQUE PORTS."

LANCASTER—COUNTY.

LANCASHIRE is a county of England, bounded on the north by Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Yorkshire, on the east by Yorkshire, on the west by the Irish Sea, and on the south by Cheshire. It is about 74 miles long, and from 15 to 44 wide, and contains above 1,130,000 acres of land, of which above 350,000 are in a state of tillage, 450,000 in pasturage, and about 400,000 in woodlands and uncultivated. It is divided into six hundreds, viz. Amounderness, Blackburn, Leyland, Lonsdale, Salford, and West Derby; and contains six boroughs, Clitheroe, Lancaster, Liverpool, Newton, Preston, and Wigan; 21 market-towns, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Cartmel, Chorley, Colm, Dalton, Eccleston, Garstang, Haslingdon, Hawkshead, Hornby, Kirkham, Manchester, Ormskirk, Boulton, Prescott, Rochdale, Ulverston, and Warrington, beside 62 parishes: the whole containing 114,270 houses, inhabited by 672,731 persons, viz. 322,356 males, and 350,375 females, of whom 269,259 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures, and 52,018 in agriculture. The amount of assessment for the poor's rates for the year 1803 was 230,765*l.*, at the rate of 5*s.* 4½*d.* in the pound. The assessment of the property-tax for one year, ending April, 1806, was 5,349,556*l.* The average scale of mortality in this county for 10 years is as 1 to 46½ of the population. The area

of this county comprises 1,806 square statute miles, equal to 1,155,840 statute acres; the number of inhabitants in each square mile containing 640 acres being 372; and the total number of persons 671,832. Lancashire lies in the diocese of Chester and province of York, and returns 14 members to Parliament. Its principal rivers are the Mersey, Ribble, Were, and Lune. The Mersey rises in Derbyshire, and after receiving several smaller streams, divides that county from Cheshire, and falls into the sea at Liverpool. The Ribble rises in Yorkshire, and crossing the county, falls into the Irish Sea near Preston. The Were is formed by several small streams, and falls into the Irish Sea above 12 miles north of the Ribble, and the Lune or Loune rises near Kirby Lonsdale, in Westmoreland, and falls into the Irish Sea not far from Lancaster. All these rivers afford excellent salmon, and the Mersey is visited by annual shoals of smelts called sparlings, of remarkable size and flavour. A ridge of mountains separates Lancashire from Yorkshire; and, continuing its course through some other counties, has been called *The Back-bone of England*. This ridge screens the county from the easterly winds and their attendant evils, and is thought to cause a greater quantity of rain than in the more interior parts of the kingdom, but does not seem to make the climate less wholesome. Lancashire has some local advantages, which have been the cause of rendering the county so famous for its manufactures. These, in a great measure, depend on the two material articles coal and water, the former of which lies in immense

beds towards the southern and middle part ; and cannel or candle coal is found plentifully distributed. The northern and north-eastern districts produce lime-stone ; and near Lancaster is an extensive quarry of excellent stone, which admits of a fine polish. Blue slate is obtained in large quantities in the mountains called Coniston and Telberthwaite Fells near Hawkeshead. Copper mines have been worked in the north, but without much success. Scithe stones are obtained at Rainford, well wrought upon the spot. This county comprises a variety of soil and diversity of country ; but in general it is one of those which have been least favoured by nature ; though, as a commercial and manufacturing district, it has of late years increased beyond any other in the kingdom. That disjointed part of it called the Hundred of Furness is a wild and rugged region, stored with iron, and covered with underwood, which last is found very useful in supplying the furnaces : in this district is a considerable lake, called *Conistone Meer*, near the sea, in the vicinity of the ancient abbey of Furness : the land is tolerably fertile ; and the long and narrow Isle of Walney forms its bulwark from the Irish Sea. On the southern part towards Yorkshire are many of those black turf bogs called mosses, some of very great extent, and entirely impassable during wet seasons. The country about Garstang is noted for its fine breed of horned cattle. From the wetness of its climate, and from the frequent clouds which in their passage from the western sea are here stopped by the inland ridge of hills, it is but little adapted for a corn country,

so that the grain chiefly cultivated is the oat ; but potatoes thrive here to very great advantage, and large quantities are even exported to Dublin. A considerable quantity of cheese is made in this county, similar to that which takes its name from Cheshire. Manufactures are carried on very extensively here in all the various branches of silk, linen, and cotton, which supply most of the markets at home and abroad, particularly since the late improvements in machinery, and the advantage of water carriage from Liverpool, which communicates, by the system of inland navigation, with all the neighbouring counties, and principal rivers in England. There are also considerable works in iron and steel, favoured by its production of coal ; and near Preston is a patent manufactory of cast plate-glass. The principal food of the labouring class, particularly on the northern and eastern borders, is oaten cakes, without leaven, and rolled very thin. Notwithstanding its wet climate, the air is not found to be particularly unhealthy. The beauty of the females of this county has long been proverbial, and entitled them, from their bewitching appearance, to the appellation of *Lancashire witches*.

In the time of the ancient Britons and Romans, this county was part of the large territory inhabited by the *Brigantes* ; and there are two Roman military ways that enter it, one from Westmoreland, and the other from Yorkshire. Under the Saxon heptarchy it became subject to the kings of Northumberland. King Edward III. made it a county palatine, in favour of his son John of

Gaunt, and it has still a court, which sits in the duchy chamber at Westminster, and takes cognizance of all causes that any way concern the revenue belonging to that duchy, the chief judge of which is the chancellor of the duchy, who is assisted and attended by the attorney-general, the receiver-general, the auditor of the north and south parts of the duchy, the king's sergeant and council, the secretary, deputy clerk and register, an usher, deputy usher, and messenger; as also a court of chancery, appointed to hear and determine all causes, according to some peculiar customs used among themselves, which is held at Preston. The chancellor is chief judge of this court also, and has proper officers under him, such as a vice-chancellor, an attorney-general, chief clerk, register, and examiner; five attorneys and clerks, a prothonotary and his deputy, and clerks of the crown and peace.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county first sent members to Parliament in the 22d of Edward I.

March 19, 1678. A petition of William Spencer, esq., complaining of the undue election and return of Peter Bold, esq.

No report appears.

Oct. 20, 1722. A petition of Sir Henry Houghton, bart., against the return of Sir John Bland, by means of bribery, threats, and riotous and illegal practices.

No report appears.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The estates and connexions of the Earl of Derby, together with his lordship's personal influence, enable him always to nominate one of the members for this county. The other is selected by the old Tory families, and is generally a supporter of the administration for the time being.

The principal families in this county are the Duke of Hamilton, Earl of Derby, Earl of Stamford, Earl of Wilton, Lord Petre, Mr. Bootle, Mr. Shuttleworth, Mr. Blackburne, &c.

LANCASTER—TOWN.

LANCASTER, a sea-port, a market and the county town of Lancashire, 22 miles from Preston, and 239 from London; containing 5,198 houses, 9,030 inhabitants, viz. 3,999 males and 5,031 females, of whom 1,822 were employed in various trades and manufactures, principally in sail-cloth and coarse linens. It is situated on the river Lune, which forms a harbour of moderate size. The merchant shipping is chiefly employed in the West India, American, and Baltic trades. It has a long fine quay, on which are a suite of noble warehouses. The houses are neat, handsome, and well built, and the streets paved; with one spacious square. The church is a handsome gothic structure, standing on the crown of an eminence below the castle, from which it is separated by a moat. A few of its pews retain some specimens of ancient carved

work, in the style of the times when it belonged to the priory of St. Martin, of Seez, in France. The town-hall and exchange is a good building, and has a noble portico. The custom-house is a small building, having a portico supported by four ionic pillars, each $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, consisting of a single stone. The castle is said by some to have been originally built in the time of Adrian, but the present structure was erected in the reign of Edward III. The round towers are about 26 paces distant from each other, joined by a wall and open gallery; two towers on the western side remain entire, and from their distance, and the visible foundation of the others, they appear to have been seven in number. The form of the castle must have been a polygon. One of these towers is called Adrian's. On the top is a large square tower, called John of Gaunt's Chair, whence is a most extensive prospect. In this castle the assizes are held, and it is now the county gaol. By the inland navigation, this town has communication with the Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Trent, Derwent, Severn, Humber, Thames, Avon, &c. The principal exports are hardware, woollen goods, cabinet ware, &c., the cabinet makers of Lancaster being celebrated for their ingenuity. The new bridge is a handsome building of five equal arches, is 549 feet long, and cost 12,000*l*. It was erected at the expense of the county.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town sent members to Parliament in the 23d of Edward I., and ten times after, between

that time and the end of the 33rd of Edward III., after which it ceased till Edward VI., when it was restored.

PETITIONS. May 30, 1685. A petition of Charles, Lord Brandon, touching the election for this town; but no report appears.

In 1784, John Lowther, esq. petitioned. The petition was renewed the second and third sessions. Feb. 23, 1786, the sitting members were permitted to separate, no material objection being made by the petitioner, upon the general statement that the complaint was bribery; that they were supported by different voters, and had no communication with each other. The chairman of the committee appointed to try this election reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected.

Peckwell,
vol. i.,
Introd.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, a recorder, 12 aldermen, 2 bailiffs, 12 capital burgesses, 12 common burgesses, a town-clerk, and two sergeants at mace.

King John confirmed to the burgesses all the liberties he had granted to those of the city of Bristol; and King Edward III. granted to the mayor and bailiffs the privilege of having the pleas and sessions held here, and no where else in the county. This town has given the title of duke to many branches of the royal family.

RIGHT OF ELECTION,

By the charter, is in the Freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1,800.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and two Bailiffs.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The Earl of Lonsdale has several times attempted to influence the election of members for this town, and to add its representation to the nine members he sends from other places, but generally without success.

If the right of election for this town was in the householders, the number of voters would be five thousand; as it is, the number is not above eighteen hundred, and those of the poorest order, being mostly journeymen shipwrights or cabinet-makers, not half of whom are housekeepers or tax-payers.

By the charter, freemen only have a vote; but the most glaring corruption lies in making those freemen. A freeman's son, or a freeman's apprentice, within the borough, is entitled to take up his freedom whenever he pleases, on paying into the hands of the mayor or bailiff 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* This sum is most generally paid by the opposing candidates, and the greatest number of freemen thus made turns the scale of the election. Hence, as ship-building and the cabinet business are the only manufactories here, he who has the most ships to build or repair, or he who will lay out a few hundreds in mahogany furniture, is most likely to carry his election. The journeymen are at the command of their masters; they get intoxicated during the canvas, and having 5*s.* to eat and drink on the day of election, they give a shout, and go quietly to work again. The revenue officers are about twenty-five, but many of them are not freemen, and therefore have no votes.

PRESTON.

PRESTON, a borough, market-town, and parish, in the hundred of Amounderness, Lancaster, situated on the river Ribble, 15 miles from Wigan, and 216 from London; containing 2,169 houses and 11,887 inhabitants, viz. 5,415 males and 6,472 females, of whom 1,419 were returned as being employed in various trades, principally in the cotton manufacture, which is carried on here very extensively. This town is said to have sprung from the ruins of an ancient city called Ribchester, now a village in the neighbourhood, and to have received its modern name (a corruption of Priests' Town,) from the number of religious who resided in it. The town is very well built, having a very handsome and extensive town-hall, with a suite of assembly-rooms annexed, erected some years since at the expense of the Earl of Derby. The new prison, on the Howardian plan, is a very extensive and commodious building. The river here is only navigable for small vessels, which come coastways from Liverpool and other parts; and by canal navigation it has a communication with most of the principal rivers in England. The markets are on Wednesday and Friday for fish, vegetables, butter, eggs, &c., and on Saturday for all kinds of provisions. Fairs, 27th March, 7th September, and the first Saturday after 6th January. Every twentieth year a kind of Jubilee is held, called *Preston Guild*, which begins the last week in August, and continues a month; the last was held in 1802.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough sent members to Parliament in the 23d, 26th, 33d, and 35th of Edward I., and in the first of Edward II.; omitted sending till Edward VI.'s time, when it was restored.

PETITIONS, &c. March 25, 1690. A petition of Thomas Patton, esq., against the return of the Right Hon. Lord Willoughby, by means of undue practices.

Oct. 16. A petition from the same in substance with the former.

— 17. A petition of the mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, common council, and capital burgesses, of this borough, shewing that the Right Hon. Lord Willoughby was duly elected and returned, but is since called up to the House of Lords, whereby the borough is now represented by one member only.

Nov. 20. Resolved: "That Robert, Lord Willoughby *was* duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough.

Dec. 7, 1695. A petition of Sir Christopher Greenfield, knt., against the return of Thomas Molineux, esq., by means of corrupt practices.

No determination.

Jan. 16, 1706. A petition of Henry Fleetwood, esq., against the return of Arthur Mainwaring, esq., by means of many corrupt and illegal practices.

Feb. 15. Petition withdrawn.

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Francis Annesley, esq., against the return of Sir Henry Houghton, by means of bribery, treats, promises, imprisonment of the voters, and other undue practices.

Dec. 8, 1711. Another petition of Francis Annesley, esq., to the same effect.

Jan. 21, 1712. Petitions withdrawn.

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of Thomas Molineux, esq., against the return of Thomas Hesketh, esq., by means of bribery and other undue practices.

Jan. 10, 1723. Another petition of the same to the same effect.

At the general election in 1768, Sir Henry Houghton and General Burgoyne opposed Sir Peter Leicester and Sir Frank Standish, who succeeded in getting the return. The former petitioned on the right of the inhabitants at large. The committee found the petitioners duly elected, and ought to have been returned, and Sir Peter Leicester and Sir F. Standish, barts., not duly elected—Nov. 29, 1768.

Luders,
vol. iii. p.
225.

Ib. p. 225.

At the general election in 1774, Sir Henry Houghton, bart., and John Burgoyne, esq., were returned without any contest upon this right of election: but the dispute was renewed at the election following, in 1780, when John Fenton, esq., who stood upon the interest of the in-burghesses inhabitants petitioned against the return of John Burgoyne, esq., but the committee found the sitting member duly elected—April 10, 1781.

Ib. p. 221.

In 1784, Ralph Clayton, and Michael Angelo Taylor, esqrs., petitioned against the return of the Right Hon. John Burgoyne and Sir Henry Houghton, bart.

The petition of the candidates alleged, that they were duly elected by a majority of persons qualified to vote by the constitution of the borough;

but that the mayor and bailiffs had arbitrarily admitted a great number of persons to vote for the sitting members who had no right to vote, under colour whereof a pretended majority was obtained for them.

A petition of the electors, *being in-burgesses inhabitants within the borough*, contained the same allegation, and added, that by the constitution of the borough no person had any right of voting upon the election of its burgesses to Parliament but in-burgesses of the said borough, inhabiting within the same; and that the return was made in violation of the rights of the petitioners and others the legal electors.

On the 22d of April, 1785, the chairman of the committee appointed to try the merits of this contested election reported to the House that they found the sitting members duly elected.

CORPORATION.

This consists of a mayor, recorder, seven aldermen, two bailiffs, and thirteen capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

December 18, 1661. All the Inhabitants have voices in the election.

November 29, 1768. Not to admit counsel to produce evidence, in order to shew that the right of election for the said borough was in all the inhabitants, according to the last determination of the House, or that the words, "all the inhabitants," mentioned in the said determination of the House, mean only, "such in-burgesses of the last

“ guild, or those admitted since by copy of court-roll, as are inhabitants of the place,” but all the inhabitants at large.

It was determined that the words *all the inhabitants* did not only mean the in-burgesses of the last guild, or those admitted since by copy of court roll, as are inhabitants of the said place, but all the Inhabitants at large—29th Nov. 1770.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—2,200.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and Bailiffs.

PATRONS—the Earl of Derby and Mr. Horrocks.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough had always been under the influence of the Earls of Derby till the year 1802, when, by the increase of manufacture and population, occasioned by the introduction of the cotton-mills into this town by the late John Horrocks, esq., who, in the short space of twenty years had risen from obscurity to great opulence, he succeeded to a share in the political influence.

He opposed the interest of the Earl of Derby in 1796, and was supported by the late Earl of Liverpool, then chancellor of the Duchy Court of Lancaster; and by the whole weight of the Church and King Club at Manchester, a party better known in 1745 by the name of the *Manchester Jacobites*, but was at that time unsuccessful, the numbers on the poll being—

For Lord Stanley 772

Sir H. P. Houghton 756

John Horrocks, esq. 742

The numbers being so nearly equal, and the interest of Mr. Horrocks increasing, the parties formed a coalition at the next election, in 1802, and agreed each to return one member.

These united interests were opposed in 1807 by the late Edward Hanson, esq., of Manchester, with every prospect of success; and again in 1812, when they had gathered such strength, as to leave Mr. Hanson in a great minority, the numbers on the poll being—

For Samuel Horrocks, esq. 1,371

Edmund Hornby, esq. 1,368

Edward Hanson, esq. 727

Many attempts have been made to limit the right of election in this town by petition, and to obtain the determination of a committee, that “all the inhabitants,” meant only a select number, as was the case in the Truro question, when the word “populace” was determined to mean a corporation of *twenty-five persons*; and in all the cases respecting Poole, that the word “commonalty” meant the *corporation only*. In the Preston case, however, it is due to the cause of justice to remark, that the words “all the inhabitants” having a right to vote, means *all the inhabitants at large* of the said town.

LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL is a market-town, borough, and sea-port, consisting of 6 parishes, in the hundred of West Derby, Lancaster, 206 miles from London. It lies near the mouth of the river Mersey, and contains 11,784 houses, inhabited by 77,658 persons, viz. 24,367 males, and 43,286 females, of whom 11,269 were employed in trade, handicraft, and manufacture. Until the reign of William III. Liverpool had but one church, and that only a chapelry to Walton, when about the year 1698, an act of parliament was obtained empowering the inhabitants to erect a new church; from that time may be traced the rapid progress of population and commerce, till this port is now second only to the metropolis of the empire. The Exchange is a very handsome building of stone, having two fronts, each consisting of an elegant range of Corinthian columns, supporting a pediment. The entrance, or avenue, is by three arched doorways. In the exchange are the town-hall, council, and assembly-room. All the modern buildings are very handsome, and the new streets spacious and airy, but the old streets are narrow. The observatory is a small building on an eminence at the east side of the town, erected for the purpose of promoting the study of astronomy, but the project failed. In John-street is a public-library, conducted by a president and committee, with a very valuable collection of modern books. The theatre

is a large, handsome, and elegantly finished building, erected in 1772, by the subscription of thirty gentlemen. In Bold-street is the music-hall, at which are held subscription concerts. The infirmary is a noble institution, and not only receives distressed objects in Liverpool, but is open to those who come from a distance under any dangerous casualty. The design was first formed in 1745 by a public subscription, and the corporation granted a field for 999 years, but it was not completed till 1748, owing to the national troubles of that period. The hospital for seamen forms one of the wings of the infirmary. This charity likewise extends to the children and widows of mariners. It is maintained by a monthly collection of 6*d.* from the wages of every sailor going from the port of Liverpool. There is also a public dispensary, a marine society, and an extensive poor-house, erected in 1771. The new prison, according to the Howardian plan for solitary confinement, is on a very extensive scale, and has every possible convenience. At the east end of the town is a wet dock capable of holding 100 sail of vessels, besides which there are several other wet and dry docks, and many graving docks for the repairing of vessels, which render it one of the most commodious sea-ports in the world. The custom-house is a neat brick building, at the east end of the old dock; a small flight of steps leads to a piazza, over which is the long-room, and behind are extensive warehouses. At the south end of the town is St. James's-walk, commanding a beautiful prospect of the town, the harbour, river, sea, and

the Welsh mountains ; behind this is the stone quarry which supplies the town with that material for building ; the entrance is through a subterraneous passage, supported by arches. There is a mineral spring of great reputation and fashionable resort. Among the principal manufactures are those of china and earthenware, the several branches of the watch manufacture, and particularly that of fine files, an extensive stocking manufacture, salt, iron, and copperas works, and several public and private breweries. It is computed that here are 3,000 shipwrights employed in the different dock-yards. There are also 16 roperies, and 27 windmills in the neighbourhood. The mouth of the river Mersey may be called properly an arm of the sea ; its breadth from Leacombe Point to the opposite shore is 1,200 yards. It abounds with salmon, cod, flounders, turbot, &c., and at full tide is two miles over ; ships of any burthen may come up fully laden before the town, which is quite open and unfortified. Ships of considerable burthen go up the Mersey almost as high as Warrington, chiefly for rock salt and Cheshire cheeses. Great improvements have of late been made at Liverpool with respect to the accommodations for sea-bathing, the corporation having finished in 1794, at a great expense, a most complete set of baths, into which the water flows from the sea. Here are also convenient accommodations for those who prefer bathing in the open sea. And there are bathing-machines on a similar construction to those of Margate and Brighton. The high grounds on the east of the

town defend the place from easterly winds, but it is open for the western breezes to allay the heat of summer, so that in general it is very healthy and temperate. Epidemical disorders seldom shew themselves in this town, and when they do are only of short continuance. To shew the rapid increase of the town within the last century it may be interesting to note the baptisms and burials at four different periods, viz. in 1700—162 baptisms and 117 burials. In 1750—824 baptisms and 1,031 burials. In 1780—1,579 baptisms and 1,486 burials; and in 1800—2,905 baptisms, and 2,782 burials. Originally the trade of Liverpool was only with Ireland; and for carrying it on with more facility, several Irish merchants settled in the town. The greater part of the trade with the Isle of Man was gradually transferred hither. The following notices will shew the progress of this town in commercial affairs; in 1720 some salt was exported, and in 1730 it is first recorded, that *several* ships had sailed from this port to the coast of Africa. The first dock was dug in 1710; it afterwards became frequented by ships from the Baltic, and other parts of the north of Europe, as they were more certain of finding a return cargo here than at Bristol, and always sure of having salt in the place of sailing in ballast. The inland navigation, by canals, opened a most advantageous communication with the manufacturing places and chief towns of the kingdom. The increasing manufactures of Lancashire created a continual demand for raw materials from abroad; the salt works of Cheshire, by a more diligent and im-

proved mode of management, became more productive: these, and various other supervening causes, were the means of this port enjoying one-twelfth of the navigation of Great Britain, the fourth part of its foreign trade, the sixth part of its general trade, half as much of commerce as London, five-eighths of the African trade, and three-sevenths of the African trade of Europe. From the 30th of June, 1805, to the same day, 1806, 33,364 ships entered the different docks at this port. On the quays of the docks stand large warehouses, and among others the large tobacco warehouse belonging to government, which will hold 7,000 hogsheads.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This sea-port town and borough sent burgesses to Parliament in the 23rd and 35th of Edward the First, but made no other return till the reign of Edward the Sixth.

PETITIONS, &c. June 5, 1678. A petition of Sir Edward Moore, bart., against the return of Sir Ralph Ashton, bart., and Richard Atherton, esq.

No determination.

Dec. 21, 1694. A petition of several burgesses and freemen of this borough and corporation against the undue return of Thomas Brotherton, esq., by means of the illegal proceedings of the mayor.—Also,

A petition of Jasper Mawdit, esq., complaining of the illegal conduct of the mayor of this town, in denying him a poll, on pretence that he was

not duly qualified ; and by such means unjustly returned Thomas Brotherton, esq.

Jan. 11, 1695. The question being put : “ That Thomas Brotherton, esq., is duly elected and returned : ” it passed in the negative : and,

Resolved : “ That Jasper Mawdit, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve for this borough : ” and,

Resolved : “ That Mr. Alexander Norris, mayor of this borough, having taken upon himself to judge that Jasper Mawdit, esq., being coroner of the borough, was incapable of being elected, although duly chosen, and having made a false return of Thomas Brotherton, esq., has violated the rights of the Commons of England, and broke the privileges of this House ; and for such misdemeanor, ordered, he be sent for in custody of the sergeant at arms.”

28th. A petition of the mayor of this borough in custody of the sergeant at arms was presented, acknowledging his crime, begging pardon of the House, and praying to be discharged.

This matter was several times referred to a committee to report, what censures, from precedents, had usually been inflicted on officers, for making false returns, and breaking the privileges of the House : but,

No decision appears.

Feb. 17, 1700. A petition of Sir Clive Moore, bart., against the return of Sir William Norris, by means of threats, and several other indirect practices.

No determination.

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of Thomas Bootle,

esq., against the return of Sir Thomas Johnson, by means of being unqualified.

Jan. 21, 1723. Petition withdrawn.

Jan. 22. Another petition of the same, against the return of the Hon. Langham Booth, by means of the influence of a peer of the realm, and many other undue practices.

April 2, 1724. This petition also withdrawn.

Parl. 7. William Cotesworth and Thomas Ashurst, esq., petitioners.

In 1729, Thomas Brereton, esq., petitioned against the return of Sir Thomas Aston. Witnesses being examined as to the mayor's withdrawing himself from the place of polling before he had taken the suffrages of several persons who tendered their votes for the petitioners; and one Henry Orme being called and examined, and producing a list taken by him of divers persons, who gave their votes for the petitioner after the mayor had left the place of polling, and the sitting members counsel objecting against the admission of such evidence, the point was argued, and the counsel being directed to withdraw, the House resolved, "That the paper produced by Henry Orme, containing a list taken by him of persons who voted for the petitioner after the mayor had left the place of polling, be admitted evidence of such persons voting." Glenbervie,
v.i., p. 312.

The sitting member was declared duly elected.

In 1734, Thomas Bootle and Foster Cunliffe, esqrs., petitioned against the return of Thomas Brereton and Richard Gildert, esqrs.

The electors having petitioned in behalf of their Luders,
v.i., p. 427.

candidate, (Foster Cunliffe, esq.,) his qualification was demanded, Feb. 21, 1735, and not being produced, the committee were discharged from proceeding on the case.

Parl. 16. Banastre Tarleton, esq., petitioned.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, annually chosen on St. Luke's day, a recorder, and common council of forty-one, including the mayor, recorder, and town clerk.

Whoever has borne the office of mayor is afterwards styled an alderman.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 5, 1729—was agreed by the counsel on both sides to be in the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Freemen, of the said borough, not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—2,600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and two Bailiffs.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This opulent and populous town sends no more members to Parliament than Old Sarum, without a single house or inhabitant, and the right of voting is still more unequal than the number of its representatives. The number of houses are near twelve thousand, and the voters not a quarter of that number; the right of election not being in the householders, who pay the taxes, and serve all public offices, but in the freemen only who obtain that qualification by birth or apprenticeship, and which right is principally confined to journey-

men shipwrights, their sons, and those who have served an apprenticeship to them.

The corporation always influences the return of one member, and they have kept in General Gascoigne for nine Parliaments. In the choice of the other the freemen are very eccentric. General Tarleton has been four times chosen by very great majorities, and twice rejected; the last time he had only eleven votes. Mr. Roscoe, that ornament of elegant literature, and enlightened patriot, was changed at the ensuing election for Mr. Canning. Mr. Brougham and Mr. Creevey, both intrepid and independent assertors of the people's rights, and who were principally instrumental in the repeal of the Orders in Council, by which this town had been more than any other in the kingdom a sufferer, and which had annihilated their trade with America, and brought on a war with that country, were rejected at the last general election in favour of the very man, who, when a member of administration, had been the principal promoter of those measures. Whether this is to be attributed to the political depravity of the times, or to that influence which pervades all rotten boroughs, we leave these very consistent electors to determine.

At the close of the poll for the last general election, in 1812, the numbers were, for

The Right Hon. George Canning	1,631
Isaac Gascoigne, esq.	1,531
Henry Brougham, esq.	1,131
Thomas Creevey, esq.	1,068
Banistre Tarleton, esq.	11

CLITHEROE.

CLITHEROE, a borough, market-town, and chapelry, in the parish of Whalley and hundred of Blackburn, Lancaster, five miles and a half from Whalley, 30 from Manchester, and 216 from London; containing 283 houses and 1,368 inhabitants. It stands on the river Ribble, and the church or chapel is a neat structure. The town is watered by several good springs, and has a spa impregnated with sulphur similar to the one at Wigan. The castle is an ancient ruin, standing on a hill, built in 1178. Within these few years, several extensive cotton manufactories have been established here, which, together with lime-burning, is the chief trade of the town. It has a canal navigation, which joins the Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Trent, Derwent, Severn, Humber, Thames, and Avon, being an extent of about 500 miles. Market on Saturdays: and its fairs are 24th March, 1st August, fourth Saturday after Michaelmas-day, and 7th December.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was never represented in Parliament till the first year of Queen Elizabeth.

PETITIONS, &c. Sir Thomas Fanshaw moved for a new writ for a burgess in room of Mr. George Kirke, who is a Scottish man, *ante-natus*, and not naturalized.

July 16, 1660. Sir Edward Turner reported

upon the return of Colonel William White and Sir Ralph Ashton, that, in the opinion of the committee, "the right of election is in the free burghers, and not in the freemen at large; and that Mr. Hulton was duly elected, and ought to sit;"—to which the House agreed.

Feb. 4, 1661. Sergeant Charleton reported from the committee touching the election for this borough, "that the right of election was in such freeholders only who held estates for life or in fee;"—to which the House agreed.

March 1, 1676. A petition of Sir Ralph Ashton, bart., against the return of Sir Thomas Stringer.

May 31, 1678. The same petition was again presented.

No determination.

Dec. 5, 1693. A petition of John Weddall, esq., touching the election for this borough.

Dec. 15, ——. A petition of the bailiffs and burgesses of the corporation of this borough, touching the right of election, &c.

A petition of John Weddall, esq., against the return of Fitton Gerrard, esq.

Feb. 2, 1694. It was agreed on both sides,

"That the right of election was in the burgesses and freemen."

"The burgesses were such as had, in any lands or houses in the borough, an estate of freehold or inheritance; and they were of two sorts—out-burgesses who lived out of the borough, and in-burgesses who lived in the borough, and had such estate in houses or land there; and both these had right of electing."

“ The freemen were such as lived in the houses within the borough as tenants ; and they had the right of electing when the landlords did not vote for these houses ; but when they did, the tenants had no right of electing.”

“ That the said election of a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough is a void election ;” and

A motion was made to send for Thomas Rigby, esq., the late sheriff of Lancashire, in the custody of the sergeant at arms, but was disagreed to.

March 10, ——. A petition of Christopher Lister, esq., against the return of Fitton Gerrard, esq.

A petition of Fitton Gerrard, esq., against the return of Christopher Lister, esq.

Resolved : “ That Fitton Gerrard, esq., is duly elected a burgess for this borough ;” which was agreed to by the House.

Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of Thomas Stringer, esq., against the return of Ambrose Pudsey, esq.

Feb. 12, 1696. Resolved : “ That Ambrose Pudsey, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve for this borough.”

Dec. 23, 1698. A petition of Ambrose Pudsey, esq., against the return of Thomas Stringer, esq.

No determination.

Oct. 24, 1702. A petition of Edward Harvey, esq., against the return of Thomas Stringer and Ambrose Pudsey, esqrs., by means of unlawful practices.

Nov. 10, 1703. The said petition was again presented.

Dec. 21, ——. Resolved : “ That the sitting

members are duly elected burgesses to serve for this borough."

Jan. 13, 1706. A petition of Daniel Hervey, esq., touching the election for this borough.

No determination.

— 14. A petition of Christopher Parker, esq., against the return of Daniel Hervey, esq., by means of undue and illegal practices.

— 23. Resolved: "That Daniel Hervey, esq. is duly elected a burgess to serve for this borough;" which was agreed to by the House.

March 3, 1713. A petition of Edward Hervey, esq., against the return of Charles Stanley, esq., by means of undue practices.

April 13, 1714. Resolved: "That the Hon. Charles Stanley and Edward Hervey, esq., are not duly elected."

"That the said election is a void election."

Ordered: "That no new writ do issue this session for electing a burgess to serve in this Parliament."

March 28, 1715. A petition of Edward Hervey, esq., against a double return for this borough.

— 30. Petition withdrawn.

Oct. 19, 1722. A petition of the Inquiry Jury and others touching the election for this borough.

A petition of James Haldane, esq., against the return of Thomas Lister and Nathaniel Curzon, esqrs.

Jan. 16, 1723. Another petition of the same to the same effect.

Nov. 14, 1724. A third petition of the same to the same effect.—No report appears.

Nov. 7, 1780. Asheton Curzon, esq., petitioned against the election of John Parker, esq., also some electors in his interest—Nov. 18.

Peckwell.
v. i. p. 345.

Mr. Curzon's petition charged the returning officers with great partiality in favour of the two members returned, (J. Parker and T. Lister, esqrs.,) and alleged that, by the undue practices of both the sitting members, a colourable majority had been obtained in favour of one of them, viz. Mr. Parker, and prayed that he might be declared duly elected in his stead. The electors who petitioned complained of the partiality of the returning officers in favour of Mr. Parker only.

March 26, 1781. The chairman of the committee appointed to try the election reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

CORPORATION.

None.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—90 nominally, but actually only two.

RETURNING OFFICERS—two Bailiffs.

PROPRIETORS—Lord Viscount Curzon and Lord Brownlow.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough, which has about ninety burgage-holds, was formerly disputed between Lord Viscount Curzon and Lord Ribblesdale, the then pro-

prietors, who afterwards agreed to a compromise, and returned each a member.

Lord Ribblesdale has since sold his moiety of nominal votes to Lord Brownlow, and these two noblemen return the two members.

NEWTON.

NEWTON IN THE WILLOWS, a borough-town and chapelry in the parish of Winwick, hundred of West Derby, Lancaster, four miles and a half from Warrington, and 179 from London; containing 178 houses and 1,455 inhabitants, of whom 356 were returned as being employed in various trades. This was once a market-town, but the market is now discontinued, although the market-cross is still standing in the church-yard.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was never represented in Parliament till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, *anno* 1.

PETITIONS, &c. May 25, 1685. A petition of Thomas Brotherton, esq., touching the election for this borough.

No determination.

March 25, 1690. A petition of Sir James Forbes and Sir Thomas Brotherton against the return of Sir John Chickley and George Cholmondley, esq.

Oct. 6, ——. The same petition was again in substance with the former.

Oct. 22, 1691. Another petition of the same to the same effect.

In 1717, William Shippen, esq., was committed to the Tower for reflecting on the king's speech. Ordered, Dec. 6, 1717, "That the words reported, the fourth instant, from the committee of the whole House (who were to consider of the supply granted to his majesty be printed, and the same are as follows, viz. *That the second paragraph of the speech seemed rather to be calculated for the meridian of Germany than Great Britain. That the king is a stranger to our language and constitution.*

In 1707, Peter Patten, esq., and some electors in his interest, petitioned against the return of Thomas L. Brooke, esq.

Glenbervie,
vol. iv., p.
498.

Beatson's
Reg. vol. ii.

Dec. 11, 1797, the committee that tried this contested election having come to the resolution, "That the right of election for the borough of Newton, in the county of Lancaster, is exclusively in the freemen and burgesses of the said borough;" thereupon the sitting member said, that he would give the committee no further trouble, and the chairman of the committee reported to the House, "That Peter Patten, esq., the petitioner was duly elected, and ought to have been returned."

CORPORATION.

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Dec. 11, 1797. "The right of election for the
"borough of Newton, in the county palatine of
"Lancaster, is exclusively vested in the Freemen or
"Burgesses of the said borough; that is to say, in
"any person seised of a corporal estate of free-
"hold in any house, building, or lands, within the
"borough, of the value of forty shillings a year

“and upwards; and in case of joint tenants, or
 “tenants in common, no more than one person has
 “a right to vote for one and the same house or
 “tenement.”

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 60 nominally, but actually only one.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Steward and Bailiff of the manor.

PROPRIETOR—Thomas Leigh, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This is another burgage-tenure borough like Clitheroe; the nominal votes are about sixty, the majority belong to Thomas Leigh, esq., of Lyme, who nominates both members.

WIGAN.

WIGAN, a borough, market-town, and parish, in the hundred of West Derby, Lancaster, situated near the small river Douglas, 12 miles from Prescott, and 200 from London; containing 2,177 houses and 10,989 inhabitants, of whom 6,867 were returned as being employed in various branches of manufactures. Of late years this town has much increased in population, trade, and buildings; and several new streets have been erected, containing many handsome houses. The town-hall was erected in 1720, at the joint expense of the Earl of Barrymore and Sir Roger Bradshaw. The market is on Friday; and its fairs are held on Holy Thursday and 28th October, for horses,

cattle, and cloth, and the 27th June for horses and cattle only. The living of this parish is very valuable, and the rector is always lord of the manor. In the king's books it is rated at '80*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, with Holland chapel annexed.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough returned members to Parliament in the 23rd and 35th of Edward I., but made no other return till the 1st of Edward VI.

PETITIONS, &c. June 20, 1660. Mr. Turner reported from the committee touching the double election for this borough,

“That the election was void.”

March 19, 1678. A petition of Alexander Rigby, esq., complaining of an undue return of Charles, Earl of Ancram.

No determination.

Nov. 30, 1695. A petition of Alexander Rigby, esq., against the return of Peter Shackerly, esq.

Feb. 11, 1696. Petition withdrawn.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of Sir Alexander Rigby, knt., against the return of Orlando Bridgeman, esq., by means of many undue practices.

Nov. 24, 1699. Another petition of the same against the return of Sir Roger Bradshaigh and Orlando Bridgeman, esq.

Being referred to a committee, it was determined that the last petition differed in substance with the former, and the committee were accordingly discharged from proceeding on the same.

March 3, 1713. A petition of James Barry, Earl of Barrymore, and Orlando Bridgeman, against

the return of Sir Roger Bradshaigh and George Kenyon, esq., by means of their not being qualified to sit, as prescribed by act the 9th of Anne.

April 6, ——. Resolved: "That the Committee of Privileges and Elections be discharged from proceeding on the petition of the Earl of Barrymore, complaining of an undue election for this borough, the said petition not having been signed by the said Earl of Barrymore himself, but signed by the order of the said Earl, and owned by him.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, recorder, and 12 alderman, two bailiffs, and an indefinite number of burgesses—by charter the 27th of Elizabeth and 18th of Charles II.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

There is no resolution of the House respecting the right of election, but it is supposed to be in the Free Burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 100.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and two Bailiffs.

PATRONS—Sir Robert Holt Leigh and John Hodson, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The rector of this parish is always lord of the manor. The right of voting is confined to the mayor, aldermen, and two bailiffs, and to any number of burgesses this select body may please to make.

The patronage of this corporation was contested

between the late Duke of Portland and the late Earl of Lonsdale ; George Byng, esq., afterwards member for Middlesex, was supported by the former, and Sir Fletcher Norton by the latter. The Duke of Portland succeeded, at an expense of twenty thousand pounds, and retained the patronage from 1768 till 1802, a period of thirty-four years, when the present members, Sir Robert Holt Leigh, who has lately been created a baronet, and John Hodson, esq., a manufacturer of this town, prevailed on the mayor and aldermen to make about one hundred burgesses in their interest, which has given them the control of the borough and the nomination of the members ever since.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTERSHIRE, an inland county of England, bounded on the north by Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, on the east by Lincolnshire and Rutlandshire, on the south by Northamptonshire, and on the west by Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Among the Britons this county was inhabited by the Coritani ; and, on the conquest of the island by the Romans, it formed part of the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon heptarchy it belonged to the kingdom of Mercia. It is in length, from north to south, about 40 miles, and in breadth about 30. It is divided into six hundreds, in which are 196 parishes and 12 market-

towns, viz. Leicester, Ashby de la Zouch, Bosworth, Hallaton, Harborough, Lutterworth, Melton Mowbray, Mount Sorrel, Billesdon, Hinckley, Loughborough, and Waltham on the Wold. It returns four members to Parliament, two for the county, and two for the borough of Leicester. By the population returns to Parliament in 1801, this county contained 25,992 inhabited houses, 27,967 families, 130,081 inhabitants, of whom 63,943 were males, and 66,138 females; the number of persons employed in trade and manufactures amounted to 42,036 and those employed in agriculture to 23,823. It is stated to contain 816 square statute miles, equal to 522,240 statute acres; 159 persons in each square mile of 640 acres, and 129,744 inhabitants. The climate is generally temperate, and the county well watered. Leicestershire has in general a strong soil, the surface uneven, and in some parts rather hilly; the best soil being upon the hills, and the worst, which nearly approaches to clay, in the valleys. It may be considered more as an agricultural than a manufacturing county, though in the article of stockings the manufacture is considerable. This fine county was, a few years ago, mostly in common, or open fields, and produced a great deal of corn; since its inclosure it has been found chiefly profitable in grass; and, in consequence of the present farming system, the population appears to be in a declining state. The principal rivers are the Anker, the Avon, Soar, Swift, Welland, and Wreke: there are also three distinct lines of canal navigation; the Leicester navigation, the direction of which is southerly, following nearly the

course of the river Soar; the Leicester and Melton Mowbray canal, whose direction is nearly east, following the courses of the rivers Wreke and Eye; the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union canal, the direction of which is nearly south-east by a crooked course of about 44 miles in both those counties. This county raised by the poor's-rate in 1803, 107,568*l.*, at the rate of 5*s.* 2½*d.* in the pound.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has sent members to Parliament from the first returns of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. Feb. 7, 1620. Sir George Moor reported upon the double return of knights for the county of Leicester, in the choice of Sir George Hastings, and Sir Henry Hastings, and Sir Thomas Beaumont.

March 25, 1626. A petition of Sir Henry Hastings against Sir Thomas Harrop, *knt.*, high sheriff of this county, for contemptuous conduct in the late election.

The sheriff was called in, and upon his knees acknowledged his offence, craving the pardon of the House, when he was discharged, upon paying Sir Henry Hastings' charges and the officers' fees of the House.

March 26, 1679. A petition of Robert Johnson and others against the return of John, Lord Roos, and Bennet, Lord Sherrard, by means of many undue and illegal practices on the part of the sheriff and other persons of quality in this county.

April 15. Resolved: "That Lord Roos is not duly elected."

"That Lord Sherrard is well and duly elected to serve in Parliament for this county."

Nov. 27, 1708. A petition of several freeholders of this county against the return of Jeffery Palmer, esq.

No determination.

March 24, 1715. The House taking notice, by the book of returns, that the sheriff had not returned any knights of the shire to serve for this county, and that he had made a special return why he had not returned such knights, the said return was read, by which he certified, that he was assaulted in the execution of the writ, and that the election was prevented by riots: and the House being informed that there had been two petitions left with the clerk of the House (pursuant to a standing order,) relating to the proceedings in the execution of the writ, viz.

A petition of George Ashby and Thomas Byrd, esqrs., and also

A petition of Sir George Beaumont, bart., James Winstanley, William Ingo, and Samuel Bracebridge, esq., on behalf of themselves and several other freeholders.

Ordered a writ for a new election.

April 12, 1715. William Baresby, under-sheriff, was ordered into the custody of the sergeant at arms, for neglecting to return two knights of the shire by the 17th of March, that being the day of the Parliament assembling.

Jan. 13, 1719. A petition of Sir Richard Hal-

ford and several others against the return of Lord William Manners.

— 18. A petition of Francis Mundy against the same return.

Feb. 3. Both petitions withdrawn.

Oct. 24, 1722. A petition of Thomas Johnson and others against the return of Lord William Manners and Edmund Morris, esq.

Another petition of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the county against the same return.

No report appears.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The representation of this county is divided between the Whig and Tory interest. The Duke of Rutland, who calls himself the head of the former party, always nominates one member, and the opposite connexion in the county the other. This compromise took place in 1780, after an expensive contest a few years before, on the death of the Hon. Thomas Noel, between the late William Pochin, esq., and the late John Peach Hungerford, esq., in which the latter became successful on the Tory interest. These gentlemen represented this county, after the compromise, during their joint lives.

The noblemen of this county are, the Duke of Rutland, Earl of Stamford, Earl of Cardigan, Earl Ferrars, Earl of Harborough, Earl of Moira, and Lord Viscount Curzon.

LEICESTER—TOWN.

LEICESTER, the county town of Leicestershire, 14½ miles from Market Harborough, and 97½ from London, standing on the river Soar, and containing 3,505 houses and 16,953 inhabitants, viz. 7,921 males, and 9,032 females, 11,330 of whom were employed in various trades and manufactures, and 499 in agriculture. This town is of great antiquity, and at the time of the Roman Invasion was a place of strength belonging to the Britons. In Domesday-book it is styled a city: according to that record, 12 of the burgesses were bound by old custom to send out men with the king whenever he went to war. Before the castle was dismantled, it was a prodigious building, it being the court of the Great Duke of Lancaster, who called it his *Novum Opus*, now the Newark, which is still covered with the best houses in Leicester; they are extra-parochial, as being under castle-guard, by an old grant from the crown. The courts of justice, which are held here at the assizes, are at such a distance as not to disturb each other. A Parliament was held here in the reign of Henry V., in which a law was enacted for the burning of heretics. Leicester contains six parishes, but only five churches, viz. St. Mary's, St. Nicholas', St. Martin's, St. Margaret's, and All Saints, but St. Martin's is esteemed the principal church in the county. In Leland's time the whole town was

built of timber. The abbey stood about a mile from the town, in which Cardinal Wolsey died, November 29th, 1530, on his journey to London. In the reign of James I., it was sold to the Earl of Devonshire, in whose family it still continues ; and during the civil wars in the reign of Henry I. was burned by a party from Ashby de la Zouch, under Henry Hastings, afterwards created Lord Loughborough. It has continued ever since in ruins. The town-hall stands nearly adjoining to St. Martin's church, and was before the Reformation the Corpus Christi guild ; this hall in point of magnitude is considerable, but it is not elegant ; in it are held the assizes and sessions for the town, assemblies of the corporation, &c, and the election of members of Parliament. The prisons are, the county gaol, the town gaol, lately rebuilt, and the county and town bridewells. The principal trade of the town is in the manufacture of stockings, of which, several years ago, the value amounted to 60,000*l.* annually, and of late has much increased. Most of the streets of this town are narrow and dirty, but the market-place is remarkably large, and well supplied with butchers' meat and vegetables of all sorts ; the former being almost the fattest of any in the kingdom. Leicester is supplied by canal navigation, which communicates with all the principal towns in England. The market is on Saturday, and the fairs on the 2d March, Palm Saturday, Saturday in Easter week, May 12, July 5, Oct. 10, and Dec. 8 ; all upon a very large scale.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town has been represented in Parliament from the 23d of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. May 16, 1661. Sergeant Charleton reported touching the double return for this town, when the House

Resolved: "That Sir John Prettyman was duly elected, and ought to sit."

March 28, 1690. A petition of Thomas Babington, esq., against the return of Sir Edward Abney and Lawrence Carter, esq. by means of several undue practices.

No report appears.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Lawrence Carter, jun., esq., against the return of Sir George Beaumont and James Winstanley, esq., by means of many undue and illegal practices, combined with unlawful proceedings on the part of the mayor and bailiff.

The state of the poll was—

For Sir George Beaumont 685

Mr. Winstanley 593

The Petitioner 592

After hearing evidences on both sides, the committee resolved, 1. "That any person having a right to vote for two members to serve in Parliament, who has given a *single* vote, has no right to come afterwards, and give a *second* vote, during the same election."

2. "That such freemen as were made free at the charge of any of the candidates have not a right to vote."

3. "That persons living in this borough by certificate, not having gained a settlement, by renting a tenement of ten pounds *per annum*, or serving an annual office, are not entitled, by paying scot and lot, to vote in the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament."—The right of election was then agreed to be in the freemen not receiving alms, and in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot.

4. "That Sir George Beaumont is duly elected a burgess to serve in this Parliament for this borough."

5. "That James Winstanley, esq., is not duly elected."

6. "That Lawrence Carter, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this Parliament for this borough."

The first five resolutions being read twice were agreed to by the House, but the sixth being read a second time was disagreed to.

Parl. 7. Thomas Boothby Skrymsher, esq., petitioned.

Parl. 8. Several freemen petitioned against James Wigley, esq.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, recorder, steward, bailiff, 24 aldermen, 48 common-councilmen, a town-clerk, and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Feb. 8, 1705. Such freemen as were made free at the charge of any of the candidates had not a right to vote at the last election of burgesses

to serve in Parliament for the borough of Leicester.

Agreed to be in the freemen not receiving alms, and in the inhabitants paying scot and lot; but persons living in the borough of Leicester, by certificate, not having gained a settlement, by renting ten pounds *per annum*, or serving in an annual office, are not entitled, by paying scot and lot, to vote.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 2000.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This town having derived great advantages from the success of its manufactures, and the right of election being in the freemen at large, and inhabitants paying scot and lot, is therefore neither under the immediate influence of aristocracy nor administration. A violent contest happened at the general election in 1790, in which Samuel Smith, esq., of Nottingham, and Nathaniel Brassey Halhead, esq., were candidates on the court interest, and Thomas Boothby Parkins, esq., eldest son of Sir Thomas Parkins, bart., and Lewis Montilieu, esq., on that of opposition. After a poll of several days, a coalition took place between all the parties; Mr. Halhead and Mr. Montilieu agreed to decline, that one of each party might be chosen without further contest. Such an attempt to intrude upon them two representatives, in open violation of the freedom of election, had nearly proved fatal to the town. The populace began to commit depredations, and had it not been for the

interference of the military, their proceedings would have terminated in the most serious calamity.

Another severe contest took place in 1798, between John Manners, esq., supported by his brother, Sir William Manners, who had great property in this town and its neighbourhood, and Thomas Babington, esq., supported by the corporation. After a poll which lasted several days, Mr. Babington was returned.

At the general election in 1802, the late Felix Macarthy, esq., opposed the two old members, Mr. Samuel Smith and Mr. Babington; but at the close of the fourth day's poll, from the circumstance of his late arrival, finding that he was not likely to have a final majority, he declined the contest.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

LINCOLNSHIRE, a county of England, bounded on the north by the river Humber, on the east by the German Ocean, on the south by Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, and on the west by the counties of Rutland, Leicester, Nottingham, and York; is in length 77 miles, and in breadth about 48, and contains, according to the return made in 1801, 41,395 houses, inhabited by 208,557 persons, viz. 102,445 males and 106,112 females, of whom 24,263 were employed in various trades, handicrafts, and manufactures, and 60,584 in agri-

culture. By a return made in 1805, the area of this county is stated to be 2,787 square statute miles, equal to 1,783,680 statute acres; the number of inhabitants on each square mile, containing 640 acres, is 75, and the total number of persons 209,025. The total amount of money raised by the poor's rate in 1803 was 145,348*l.*, at the rate of 3*s.* 7*d.* in the pound, and the gross amount of the assessment under the property-tax of 1806 was 2,704,736*l.* The average of the deaths for 10 years appears to be as 1 to 49½ of the present population. The number of acres are estimated at 1,893,100, of which there may be 473,000 acres of inclosed, marsh, and fen lands, 200,000 of commons, wastes, and unembanked salt marshes, 268,000 of common fields, 25,000 of woodlands, and 927,120 inclosed upland. The features of the county of *Lincoln* are strongly marked by nature. Contiguous to the sea in the southern part is a great extent of low-land, much of which was once marsh and fen, but now become, by the gradual exertions of above 150 years one of the richest tracts in the kingdom. Advancing to the northward, along the coast, this rich tract becomes narrow, but reaches to the Humber, and there contracts to a mere edging of marsh land, cut off by the cliffs which rise on the Trent-mouth from a nearly similar tract, which fills all the part of the county on the left side of that great river. The heaths north and south of *Lincoln* are calcareous hills, and command many fine views over the lower country. In the time of the Britons, this county was inhabited by the Coritani, and under the Romans it

formed a part of the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. It belonged to the kingdom of Mercia during the heptarchy. Lincolnshire is divided into three parts or provinces, viz. Holland, Kesteven, and Lindsey, and sub-divided into 30 hundreds and wapentakes, which contain 630 parishes, one city, and 31 market-towns. The division called the *Parts of Lindsey* is much the largest, comprehending all the county from Fossedike and the Witham northwards. It is upon the whole the highest part of this county; toward the north-eastern part is a large tract of heathy land, called the *Wolds*, of which the southern portion is well inhabited, but the northern very thin of people. Great flocks of sheep are bred throughout this tract. The north-western part of Lindsey contains the river island of Axholme, formed by the rivers Trent, Dun, and Idle; a rich low tract, in which great quantities of flax are cultivated. The *Parts of Kesteven* contain the western part of the county from the middle to the southern extremity. It possesses a variety of soil, and, though intermixed with large heaths, is a fertile country. Part of the fens are in the district of Kesteven, but the much greater part is in the remaining and smaller one of *Holland*, which occupies the south-eastern quarter of Lincolnshire, being contiguous to the shallow inlet of the sea called *the Wash*. The rivers of Lincolnshire are the Witham, the Ankhholme, the Welland, the Dun, and the Idle; and it is washed on its northern and western sides by the rivers Humber and Trent. The market-towns are Boston, Grantham, Grimsby, Stamford, Alford, Bar-

ton, Binbrook, Bolingbroke, Bourn, Burgh, Burton, Caistor, Crowland, Crowle, Deeping, Donnington, Falkingham, Gainsborough, Glandford Briggs, Holbeach, Horncastle, Kirton, Louth, Market Raisin, Saltfleet, Sleaford, Spalding, Spilsbury, Stanton, Tattersal, Wainfleet, and Wragby. The first four, with the city of Lincoln and the county, return each two members to Parliament. With respect to the general products of Lincolnshire, its higher grounds yield grain of all sorts in abundance; and its lower, oats, hemp, flax, wood, and almost every other article of culture. It is particularly distinguished as a grazing county, and is remarkable for rearing all kinds of animals to the greatest size and weight: the oxen weighing from 80 to 100 stone, of 14lb. to the stone. It is equally famous for horses and sheep, the latter being clothed with a long thick wool, peculiarly fitted for the worsted and coarse woollen manufactures, of which great quantities are sent into Yorkshire and other counties. Lincolnshire is only in a small degree a manufacturing county, and has much declined both in population and consequence. A principal reason of this is the decay of its sea and river ports, which, though formerly numerous, are now almost entirely choaked up with sand, and some of them quite deserted by the ocean.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has sent members to Parliament from the first summons of knights of the shire.

PETITIONS, 1677. Mr. Hatchet, sheriff of Lincolnshire, on a vacancy for the borough of Stamford, in that county, offered himself a candidate, and had a majority of votes; but, probably from an idea that a sheriff could not return himself, he made a return of H. Nowell, esq., the other candidate, and then presented a petition to the committee of elections, desiring to be received to his seat in the room of Mr. Nowell. This occasioned a debate in the House; and, on the question being put, the petition was rejected.

Carew's
Elect.

April 1, 1690. John Chaplin, esq., sheriff of Lincolnshire, was returned for Great Grimsby, in that county, and petitioned against on that ground. The petition does not appear to have been proceeded on.

Dec. 5, 1695. A petition of Sir John Bolls, bart., against the return of Sir Thomas Hussey, by means of many illegal and undue practices.

No report appears.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county ranking next to Yorkshire and Devonshire in extent and territory, is represented, like twenty-five other counties, by a compromise of parties. Lord Yarborough and Sir Gilbert Heathcote, are said to possess the greatest estates in Lincolnshire; but in so extensive a county, we could enumerate a great many powerful interests. The principal noblemen who have large property here are the Marquis of Exeter, Earl of Buckinghamshire, Lord Monson, Lord Brownlow, Lord Gwidir, and Lord Yarborough.

LINCINN—CITY.

LINCINN CITY, 131 miles from London by Ancaster, 136 miles by Newark, and 129 by Peterborough, stands in a cold situation on a high hill, by the side of the river Witham. It contains 1,516 houses, inhabited by 7,398 persons, viz. 3,474 males, and 3,924 females, of whom 1,698 were returned employed in various trades, handicrafts, and manufactures, and 718 in agriculture. It is a very ancient city, and was formerly surrounded with walls, and defended by towers. On the common called *Carham* was a city of the Britons, if one of their fastnesses may be so called, but the Roman city called *Lindum* was built on the hill, in the form of a large square. The southern wall was sufficiently secured by the precipice, and the other three sides were surrounded with a deep trench, part of which is still remaining. The north Roman gate of the city, called Newport gate, still remains, consisting of a semicircular arch, 16 feet in diameter, and 10 feet thick at the bottom, and is one of the noblest remnants of Roman architecture left in Britain. The stones are held together by their wedge-like form, no mortar or cement having been used in its construction. From this gate part of the old Roman wall may be seen, built of stone well cemented together. The Romans, on finding this city not well situated for navigation, built another on the declivity of the hill. In Edward the Confessor's

time, Lincoln contained 1,070 houses, and 900 burgesses, and a strong castle was erected here by William the Conqueror, to keep the citizens in awe. This city formerly contained 52 parish churches, and a great number of religious houses, but in the second year of King Edward VI. the churches were reduced to 15. Lincoln was erected into a bishopric in the year 1,088, the see being removed here from Dorchester, in Oxfordshire. The cathedral is a magnificent fabric, and reported to be the largest in extent of any in England, except that of York. The situation is much to its advantage, as it stands on the edge of a steep hill, and may be seen through five or six of the adjoining counties. Its length from east to west is 530 feet, and the length of the great transept 227. From the pavement to the top of the lantern in the round tower is 124 feet. There are at present in the city, 13 churches, but all of them are small miserable looking buildings. The ruins of the castle are venerable, and from their bold and commanding situation on a high hill, must once have formed a place of great strength. In the parish of St. Peter's at Goats, are the ruins of the palace in which John of Gaunt is said to have resided. Lincoln is full of the ruins of monasteries and religious houses, insomuch that the very barns, stables, and outhouses, display arched windows and doors, principally circular, with the simple Saxon zig-zag round them. This city is divided into two parts, the upper town lying on the hill, and the lower town in the valley. The river Witham runs through it, but that part of it

which passes by the side of the principal street is arched over, so that nothing of it is seen ; but it makes a large lake on the west side, and has a canal called the Fosse-dike, by which it has a communication with the Trent, and by means of that river with the principal canals throughout the kingdom. The upper town contains several good buildings, and the very steepest part of the ascent of the hill is one of the principal parts of the city for trade. The corn and wool trade is great here, large quantities of both being sent into Yorkshire, whence the vessels return laden with coals. In the reign of Edward III. this city was made the staple for wool, leather, and lead. On the plain, north of Lincoln, was fought the famous battle between the partizans of the Empress Maud and King Stephen, in which the latter was defeated and taken prisoner. Lincoln has lately been much improved, in consequence of an act for lighting, paving, and watching it. The gaol is situated in the yard of the ancient castle. Fairs, first Tuesday after April 12 and July 5, second Wednesday in September, and November 12.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city had summons with London and York to send burgesses to Parliament in the 49th of Henry III., and has continued so to do to the present time.

PETITIONS. Dec. 5, 1695. A petition of Sir Edward Hussey, bart., against the return of Sir John Bolls, by means of various corrupt and undue practices.

No report appears.

Parl. 8. Thomas Chaplin, esq., petitioned.

Parl. 12. Thomas Scroope, esq., petitioned, but afterwards withdrew his petition.

May 4, 1796. A report being made that John Fenton Cawthorne, esq., a member of this House, and colonel of the Middlesex Westminster regiment of militia, had been tried and found guilty by a court-martial of several charges of embezzlement and infamous behaviour, and was sentenced to be cashiered, and rendered unfit to serve his Majesty in any military capacity whatever. The minutes of the said court martial and sentence being laid before the House, a motion was made that for his said offence he be expelled this House as an unfit person to hold a seat in Parliament.—Upon a division for the expulsion there appeared :

Ayes 108

Noes 12

Majority for the expulsion 96

CORRUPTION.

The anxiety of candidates to obtain the writs for election, is sometimes so great, that large sums of money have been given for them, and the best bidder has been generally the first possessor. A gentleman in office, of great character and integrity, and on whose credit we have the firmest reliance, informed us, that he was present when 1,000 guineas were given at the dissolution of the parliament in 1790 for the writ for this city.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, twelve aldermen, two sheriffs, a recorder, four coroners, and forty-eight common councilmen.

This city is a county of itself, and has a viscountial jurisdiction twenty miles round, a privilege enjoyed by no other city in England.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

There is no resolution of the House respecting the right of election, but it is conceived to be in the Freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1,200.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and Sheriffs.

PATRONS—Lord Monson and the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The influence that prevails in this city is that of Lord Monson, whose residence at Burton Hall is within two miles of the place, and that of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, who has also a seat in the neighbourhood. These noblemen nominated the members at the last general election in 1812.

The expense of a contest here is estimated at twelve thousand pounds to each party. This arises from the number of non-resident freemen, who are to be collected from all parts of the kingdom, by the candidates and their agents; from the sums given to the voters which vary according to

circumstances ; and the enormous demands for ribbons and treating. The dread of incurring these expenses left the electors with only one candidate at the last general election in 1812. The friends of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, were fearful of naming their man till the morning of election, when they proposed a gentleman who was abroad in the military service in Spain, who was totally unknown to the people, and unconnected with the place. It is generally understood that if any independent candidate could have been found, he would have been chosen without opposition, but expresses were sent off to several gentlemen, and no one could be prevailed on to encounter the danger, in consequence of which the nominees of the two noble families were returned.

GRANTHAM.

GRANTHAM, a borough and market-town in the liberties of Grantham Soke, and parts of Kesteven, Lincoln, 14 miles from Newark, and $111\frac{1}{2}$ from London ; containing 605 houses and 3303 inhabitants, viz. 1553 males and 1750 females, of whom 563 were returned as being employed in various trades, &c. It is situated on the side of the river Witham, on the ancient Roman road, called *Ermine-street*, and appears to have been a strong Roman station. It is worthy of remark that here Sir Isaac Newton first received the rudiments of literature. The Soke of Grantham comprehends 12 neighbouring villages, in which district the alder-

man and burgesses act as justices of the peace. A navigable canal passes from Grantham to Nottingham, where it joins the Trent, and thence runs to Cromford in Derbyshire. The market is on Saturday, and is well supplied with corn and all kinds of provisions. The fairs are on the 5th Monday in Lent, Holy-Thursday, July 10, October 26, and December 17, all for horses, cattle, &c.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough never returned members to Parliament till the 7th of Edward IV., who made it a free borough, *anno* 1463.

PETITIONS, &c. Feb. 4, 1580. A report being made to the House that Mr. Arthur Hall, (a member of this House) had been guilty of issuing from the press a libel, charging some of the particular good members of this Hon. House with DRUNKENNESS, *as being accompanied in their councils with BACCHUS*, and various other slanderous, and derogatory abuse.

Resolved, "That the said Arthur Hall, be forthwith sent for by the sergeant at arms, to make his appearance here, and also for the printer of the said libel,"—and further

Resolved, "Should the said Arthur Hall attempt to withdraw himself from the vigilance of the sergeant at arms, that it be an instruction to any member of this House, who should first happen to see or meet the said delinquent, to seize and bring him forth to answer the charges exhibited against him, with all possible speed."

The said Mr. Hall, the printer, scrivener and

others connected in setting forth the said libel, having been examined by Mr. Vice-Chancellor, &c., and the report thereon being made,

14th. Mr. Hall was brought to the bar, he submitted himself to the House, refusing to make any answer or defence, but acknowledged his error, and prayed pardon of the House.

Resolved, "That he should be committed to the prison of the Tower, and remain there six months, and so much longer till he should willingly make a retraction of the said libel to the satisfaction of this House"—and,

Resolved, "That a fine of 500 marks be assessed, to her Majesty's use, upon the said Mr. Hall.

Resolved, "That the said Mr. Hall should be severed and cut off from being a member of this House any more, during the continuance of this Parliament, and that Mr. Speaker should direct a new warrant for awarding a new writ, in lieu of the said Arthur Hall"—and further

Resolved, "That the said slanderous libel, should and shall be held, deemed, taken, and adjudged to be utterly false, and erroneous, and that the same shall be publicly testified, affirmed, and set forth, to be false, seditious, and erroneous."

May 18, 1660. Mr. Turner reported the case upon the double return for this borough.

Resolved, "That John Newton, esq., is duly elected—to which the House agreed."

March 16, 1677. A petition of Sir William Ellis, bart., complaining of an undue return of Sir Robert Markham, bart.

May 23, 1678. The same petition was again presented.

Sir Thomas Mures reported from the committee to which the petitions were referred.

Resolved, "That Sir Robert Markham is not duly elected."

"That Sir William Ellis is duly elected."—which resolutions being read twice—the first was disagreed to ;—and,

Resolved, "That Sir Robert Markham is duly elected a burgess for this borough."

May 30, 1685. A petition of John Newton, esq., touching the election for this borough.

June 3. A petition of Sir William Ellis to the same effect.

No report appears.

Jan. 5, 1697. A petition of the inhabitants of this borough against the return of Sir John Thorold, by means of bribery, &c.

No determination.

Dec. 1, 1710. A petition of Sir John Thorold, bart., against the return of the Marquis of Granby, by means of undue practices.

Jan. 11, 1711. The petitioner's counsel insisted that the right of election is "in the Freemen of the borough, not receiving alms or weekly collections."

For Lord Granby, it was insisted "that this was a borough by prescription, and that the freemen *receiving* alms and charity, had a right to vote."

Resolved, "That the right of election of members to serve in Parliament for the said borough, is

in the Freemen of the said borough, not receiving alms or charity."

"That the Lord Marquis of Granby is not duly elected."

"That Sir John Thorold, bart., is duly elected a burgess to serve for this borough; which resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

CORPORATION

Consists of an alderman, recorder, twelve common burgesses, and twelve second-men, a coroner, and an escheator, and has six constables to attend the court.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Jan. 11, 1730. Is in the Freemen of this said borough, resident or non resident, not receiving alms or charity.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—850.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Alderman.

PATRON—Sir William Manners—one member.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough has been generally influenced in the return of their members by the Duke of Rutland, and Lord Brownlow, and the ancestors of those noblemen ever since the restoration in 1660.

These united interests were opposed in 1802 by Sir William Manners, who has a great estate near the town, and who has purchased nearly all the houses in the borough. After a very expensive

contest of three days, the election terminated, when the poll stood for

Sir W. E. Welby.....434

Edward Thoroton, esq.....434

John Manners, esq.....406

Hon. A. B. Danvers.....389

The two first were supported by the Duke of Rutland, and Lord Brownlow, and the two latter by Sir William Manners.

Previous to this election it had been customary for the voters to receive two guineas from each candidate; at this election the price rose to ten guineas.

The borough continued to be contested from 1802 till the last general election in 1812, when Lord Brownlow, having sold his property in Grantham to Sir William Manners, and the Duke of Rutland agreeing to withdraw his influence, and to discontinue all further interference in the elections at this place, on condition of being permitted to sport over the extensive manors of Sir William Manners, it was imagined that Sir William would unite the intire political influence, with the immense property he possesses in the town, and its neighbourhood. The corporation, however, who have the power of making an unlimited number of non-resident freemen, can at any time counteract the influence of property, and this body espousing the interest of Sir William Earl Welby one of the old members, a compromise took place for that time, and the corporation and Sir William Manners returned each a member.

It remains undetermined whether the corpora-

tion will come under the influence of Sir William Manners, or both parties feel it their interest to continue the compromise, or decide their superiority by a future contest. The only way that the corporation can prevent Sir William Manners from having the control of the borough, is by following the example of the corporation of Bedford, who created such a number of freemen in the year 1768 as to overwhelm the influence of the Duke of Bedford.

STAMFORD, OR STANFORD.

STAMFORD, a borough and market-town, consisting of five parishes, in the hundred of Ness, and parts of Kesteven, Lincoln, $89\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London by Hatfield, and $85\frac{1}{2}$ by Ware, is situated on the river Welland, on the borders of Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire. The five parishes contain 690 houses and 4022 inhabitants, of whom 2198 were employed in trade, exclusive of the out-parish of St. Martin's, Stamford Bridge, which is situated in Northamptonshire, on the opposite side of the Welland; yet it is reckoned a part of the town, and rated with it in the taxes: this suburb contains 107 houses and 1033 inhabitants. In early times this was a strong garrison town, and had a castle on the south side of the river; there was also another castle erected within the town, but no remains are to be seen of either. In the reign of Edward III. a quarrel arising at the University of Oxford, among the students, numbers

retired hither, and formed establishments for various branches of literature; but they were of short duration. Here the custom of borough English prevails, by which the younger son inherits from a father dying intestate. Over the Welland is a fine stone bridge of 5 arches. The town-hall at the end of the bridge, is a handsome building. The chief trade of this town is in malt, coal, and freestone. The market days are on Monday and Friday. Fairs, Tuesday before 13th February, Monday before Midlent, ditto before the 12th May, and after Corpus Christi, August 5, and November 8.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough sent members to Parliament in the 23rd, 26th, 28th, 30th, 33rd, and 34th of Edward the First, the 15th of Edward the Second, and to a council in the 11th of Edward the Third, but made no other return till Edward the Fourth's reign.

PETITIONS, &c. May 9, 1660. Mr. Turner reported upon the double return for this borough, that Francis Wingfield, esq., was duly chosen, and ought to sit, to which the House agreed, and the return was amended accordingly.

July 6, 1661. Mr. Sergeant Chareton reported, touching the right of election, and the return of William Montague, and William Stafford, esqrs., when it was agreed by the House,

“That the right of election was in such Free-men only as paid scot and lot, and that the said members were duly elected.”

March 27, 1677. A motion being made that the petition of Mr. Hatcher, high bailiff of Lincoln, be rejected, setting forth that he is duly elected, notwithstanding he has himself returned Henry Newell, esq.

Resolved, "That the said petition be rejected."

Parl. 7. Charles Bertie, esq., petitioned.

Parl. 8. Savile Cust, esq., petitioned, renewed sess. 2, against John Proby, esq., who was voted duly elected.

March 8, 1736. Resolved, "That the right of election is in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms or public charities."

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, a recorder, twelve aldermen, a town-clerk, twenty-four capital burghesses, and two sergeants at mace.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—640.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—the Marquis of Exeter.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This town, although possessing chartered privileges, superior to most other places in the kingdom is dependent on the Marquis of Exeter, who possesses the greatest part of the houses in the borough, and nominates both the members. His lordship's attorney is one of them.

An opposition was made to this influence a

few years since by the late Richard Jephthson Oddy, esq., who caused a hotel, and several new houses to be built in the town, but he was not able to overcome this weight of property.

At the last general election in 1812, Sir Gerard Noel, bart., the present member for Rutlandshire opposed the nomination of the Marquis of Exeter. The numbers on the final close of the poll were for

Evan Foulkes, esq.....360

Lord Henniker.....354

Sir G. N. Noel.....272

The inhabitants of this town have very extraordinary privileges, particularly a freedom from the jurisdiction of the sheriff of the county, and from being impannelled on juries out of the town : they are exempted from the government of all lords lieutenant ; are entitled to have the returns of all writs, and claim the privilege of having the militia of the town commanded by their own officers ; in short, the mayor being the king's lord lieutenant, and immediately under his majesty's command, he is esteemed, within the liberties and jurisdiction of the town, the second man in the kingdom.

Here was fought the first battle between the Brtons and Saxons, in which the former were entirely routed, and left their enemies in the possession of the field.

GREAT GRIMSBY.

GREAT GRIMSBY is a borough, market-town, and parish in the hundred of Bradley Haverstoe, and Lindsay division of Lincoln, near the mouth of the Humber, 18 miles from Market Raisin, and $170\frac{1}{2}$ from London; containing 257 houses and 1,524 inhabitants, of whom 318 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. This is one of the most ancient boroughs in the kingdom, and was a mayoralty in the reign of King John. Two of the aldermen are annually elected justices of the peace, who, with the mayor, hold a court every Tuesday, as do also the bailiffs every Friday. The town has several good streets, and the houses are in general well built. It was formerly considerably more extensive, and had two parish churches, but only one now remains, which is a very large and handsome building, in the form of a cross, with a tower in the centre. It had likewise a castle, and a very considerable trade, the harbour being formerly very commodious, but is now so choaked up, that sloops only can come up to the town. Grimsby is a port town under that of Hull, and has a deputy collector, comptroller, and coast surveyor. The principal traffic of this town is by the river Humber, in coals and salt, here being no manufacture of any note. The market is on Wednesday, and well supplied with all kinds of grain. The fairs are on the 6th

of June and 4th September, but no stock is ever seen at them.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough has sent members to Parliament from the 23rd of Edward I. to the present time.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 22, 1667. Sergeant Charleton reported from the committee, in the case of the election for this borough, between Sir Philip Tyrwhit and Sir Fletcher Holles—

“That the election was not void.”

“That Sir Philip Tyrwhit was not duly elected.”

“That Sir Fletcher Holles was duly elected.”

To all which the House agreed, and ordered the return to be amended.

April 13, 1675. A petition (not mentioned by whom) against Sir Christopher Wray.

May 5, ——. Resolved: “That Christopher Wray is well and duly returned;”—to which the House agreed.

April 1, 1690. A petition of Sir Thomas Bernardiston, esq., against the return of John Chaplain, esq.

No determination.

Dec. 8, 1699. A petition of Richard Robinson, esq., by means of bribery, treats, and many other illegal practices.

Feb. 6, 1700. Petition withdrawn.

Feb. 13, ——. A petition of Arthur Moor, esq., against the return of Mr. William Coatsworth, by means of bribery, and other undue and corrupt practices.

March 6, 1700, Resolved, *nem. con.*: "That it appears to this House that William Coatsworth, esq., has been notoriously guilty of bribery and other indirect practices, in order to procure himself to be returned a member for this borough;" and

Ordered: "That the said William Coatsworth is not duly elected; and that for his said offence he be committed a prisoner to his majesty's Tower of London."

Then the question being put, "That Arthur Moor is duly elected," it passed in the negative; and another motion being made charging Arthur Moor as also guilty of bribery, &c., it also passed in the negative; but

Resolved: "That it appears to this House that Mr. Clayton, mayor of this borough, has been guilty of bribery and other indirect practices, in procuring the election of William Coatsworth, esq."

"That Mr. Perks, Mr. Jeffryes, Mr. Storey, and Mr. Bourman, are also guilty of the same illegal practices;" and

Ordered: "Mr. Clayton, the mayor, and the five last mentioned persons, be, for their respective offences, taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

March 7, ——. Resolved: "That it also appears to this House that Mr. John Newark and Mr. Bransby are both guilty of distributing money, and other indirect practices, in order to procure the election of Arthur Moor, esq."

Ordered: "That the said John Newark and Mr. Bransby be, for their said offences taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Resolved: "That Mr. Mason, an officer of the customs at Hull, has endeavoured, by threats and promises, to procure the election of William Coatsworth, esq."

Ordered: "That the said Mr. Mason be also taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Ordered: "That no new writ do issue this session for this borough."

Resolved: "That it appears there has been an illegal and indirect practice in this borough, to examine persons upon oath, and take affidavits, in relation to the evidence they were to give at the bar of this House, touching the election for this borough."

Ordered: "That Mr. Attorney-general do prosecute all persons who took the said examinations and affidavits, or were concerned in procuring the same."

— 8. Ordered: "That the affidavit which was taken at this borough be laid upon the table."

March 25, 1701. The sergeant at arms acquainted the House that Messrs. Clayton, Story, Bourman, Bransby, Newark, and Mason, were in custody, and both they and Mr. Rogers (who was summoned to attend,) did all now attend, but that Mr. Jeffries and Mr. Perks absconded, and could not be apprehended.

Resolved: "That a humble address be presented to his Majesty, that he will please to issue his royal proclamation for apprehending the said

Mr. Jeffryes and Mr. Perks, with a promise of a reward.

No further material particulars are recorded.

Jan. 5, 1703. A petition of Thomas Vyner, esq., against the return of Arthur Moor and William Coatsworth, by means of bribery and other undue and indirect practices.

No report appears.

Nov. 12, 1705. A petition of several freemen against the return of William Coatsworth, esq., by means of bribery, &c., &c.

Never reported upon.

March 3, 1713. A petition of Sir James Clark, knt., against the same return.

——— A petition of Henry Thistleton, and several other inhabitants, against the return of Arthur Moor, esq., by means of illegal practices.

April 1, 1714. Both petitions withdrawn.

March 28, 1715. A petition of William Coatsworth against the return of Robert Chaplain and Joseph Bankes, esqrs., by means of notorious bribery and other illegal practices.

No determination.

Upon the enquiry into the conduct of the directors of the South Sea Company, a motion was made, Jan. 28, 1720, and a question being proposed: "That Sir Robert Chaplain, a member of this House, is guilty of a notorious breach of trust as a director of the South Sea Company, and has thereby occasioned a very great loss to great numbers of his majesty's subjects, and highly prejudicial to public credit.

Resolved, *nem. con.*: "That Sir Robert Chap-

lain has been guilty of the charges imputed to him ; and, for his said offence,”

Resolved, *nem. con.*: “ That the said Robert Chaplain be expelled this House.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Arthur Moor, esq., against the return of Benjamin Collier and Charles Pelham, esqrs., by means of bribery and other corrupt practices.

A petition of Joseph Bankes, esq., against the same return, and upon the same grounds.

Nov. 28. Mr. Moor withdrew his petition.

Dec. 14. Mr. Bankes withdrew his petition.

Parl. 9. Matthew Bowcherett, esq., petitioned, but afterwards withdrew his petition.

Parl. 16. Robert Birt, esq., petitioned.

In 1791, the Hon. William Wellesley Pole and Robert Wood, esq., petitioned against the return of Dudley North and John Harrison, esqrs. The petition was renewed the second session, the merits of which depended in part upon the right of election. On the 11th of April, 1793, the chairman of the committee who tried this contested election reported to the House, that neither the sitting members nor the petitioners were duly elected ; that the election was void, and that the petition was neither frivolous nor vexatious. It appeared to the committee, that bribery, through his agents, had been used by Mr. Pole. The same members were again returned.

In 1802, William Mellish and John Sewell, esqrs., petitioned against the return of Ayscoghe Boucheret and John Henry Loft, esqrs.

Glenbervie,
vol. iv., p.
486.

Peckwell.
v. i. p. 59.

Mr. Mellish's petition complained of the conduct of the returning officer, charged Mr. Loft with bribery and treating, and claimed a majority of legal votes.

Mr. Sewell's petition contained similar allegations of bribery and treating committed by Mr. Boucheret, and a similar claim to the seat.

The numbers upon the poll, as declared by the returning officer, stood thus—

Loft	146
Boucheret	144
Mellish	143
Sewell	143
As decided by the committee they were—	
Boucheret	147
Mellish	146
Loft	137
Sewell	134

On Friday, March 18, 1803, the chairman reported the two former (Messrs. Boucheret and Mellish) duly elected, and that neither the petitions nor the defences were frivolous or vexatious. John Simpson, esq., the mayor and returning officer, was committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms, for having acted illegally and partially. He was reprimanded, and discharged on the 18th of May.

A petition was presented against the return of the Hon. Charles A. Pelham, August 1, 1803, but the order for taking it into consideration was discharged November 23, the petitioners not having entered into their recognizances.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, a high-steward, recorder, 11 aldermen, 12 common-councilmen, two coroners, two bailiffs, a town-clerk, and three sergeants at mace.

RIGHT OF ELECTION,

According to the last decision of the House, is in the Freemen, admitted at a full court by the mayor, aldermen, common-councilmen, and burgesses, such Freemen being resident, and paying scot and lot in all cases, except where no rate has taken place subsequent to their admission.—April 11, 1793.

All the sons of Freemen born in the town are entitled to their freedom, as well as every person marrying a freeman's daughter or widow.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 300.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Lord Yarborough.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough stands second to none in the history of corruption. At almost every new Parliament there has been a petition from this place on the ground of bribery; and amongst other frolics which we find practised at an English election, one was carried into effect here that is no way inferior to the exploits of Punch at Hindon, or hiring all the poor voters for constables at Worcester.

A military character, extensively employed in the recruiting service, became a candidate for this

borough in opposition to the interest of its patron, and, finding recruits as necessary for his political as his military service, enlisted a majority of the voters for soldiers with a *liberal bounty*, and carried his election. We have not heard that they were afterwards called upon to serve their country in that dangerous capacity; but, doubtless, the cautious general thought it the best mode he could adopt to prevent the desertion of these borough heroes.

BOSTON.

Boston, a market-town and parish in the hundred of Skirbeck, parts of Holland, Lincoln, four miles from Kirton, and 140 from London; containing 1,221 houses and 5,926 inhabitants, being 2,698 males and 3,228 females, 866 of whom were returned as being employed in trade and manufactures. The town is situated on each side the river Witham, near its influx with the sea, having thereby the advantages of a sea-port for small vessels; and it has also a navigation from Lincoln, partly by the Witham and partly by a canal. The market-place is spacious, and ornamented with a handsome cross, and a commodious assembly-room. In the reign of Henry I., a gang of desperadoes, who came to the fair in the disguise of monks and priests, set fire to the town; but by its thriving trade, it soon recovered the damage it sustained. The Hans Towns established a guild for wool here; but on the prohibition of wool, the

trade gradually declined: however, the enclosures of late years, and the navigation, have again revived its consequence. In 1772, the corporation built an excellent fish-market, by which the town is well supplied both with sea and river fish. Market days on Wednesday and Saturday. Fairs, 4th May, 11th August, 22d November, and 11th December.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

Although this borough sent to three councils *anno* 11, 26, and 27 of Edward III., it never returned members to Parliament till Edward VI's time.

PETITIONS, &c. ———, 1628. A petition of Sir Anthony Irby against the return of Mr. Okely.

Resolved: "That Sir Anthony Irby is duly elected."

March 8, 1628. Resolved: "The right of election is in the commonalty, and not in the mayor, aldermen, and common-council."

May 16, 1661. Sergeant Charleton reported upon the double return for this borough, that Sir Anthony Irby was duly elected.

April 30, 1662. Ordered: "The report to be heard on Tuesday next;"—and after several hearings, it stood over till

May 16, 1663, when Sergeant Charleton made his report the same as before; to which the House agreed.

Jan. 14, 1711. A petition of the Hon. Philip Bertie, esq., against the return of William Coatsworth, esq., by means of corrupt bribery, treating, and other illegal practices.

March 20, ——. Resolved by the committee :
“ That the right of election is only in the mayor, aldermen, common-councilmen, and freemen, resident in the said borough, paying scot and lot.”

“ That William Coatsworth, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That the Hon. Philip Bertie is duly elected a Burgess to serve for this borough.”

The two first resolutions being read twice were agreed to by the House ; but the third resolution, upon a second reading, was disagreed to ; and

Resolved : “ That the late election for this borough is a void election.”

April 17, 1712. A petition of the Hon. Philip Bertie against the same return, under similar circumstances.

June 3. Resolved : “ That William Coatsworth, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That Philip Bertie, esq., is not duly elected.”

The said resolutions were read twice, and the first disagreed to by the House.

March 3, 1713. A petition of William Coatsworth, esq., against the return of Richard Wynn and Henry Heron, esqrs.

April 1, 1714. Petition withdrawn.

Dec. 22, 1719. A petition of Sir William Massingberd, bart., against the return of Richard Ellis, esq., by means of bribery and other unwarrantable practices.

March 2, 1720. Resolved : “ That the right of election is only in the mayor, aldermen, common-councilmen, and freemen of the said borough, resident in the said borough, and paying scot and

lot, such freemen claiming their freedom by birth or servitude."

"That Richard Ellis, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve for this borough;"—both which resolutions were agreed to by the House.

Oct. 28, 1722. A petition of William Thornton, esq., against the return of Henry Parry, esq., by means of bribery and other corrupt practices.

Jan. 15, 1723. Another petition of William Thornton, esq., against the same return.

No determination appears.

In 1803, certain persons, "having a right to vote at the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament," petitioned against the return of Thomas Fydell, esq. The petition charged Mr. Fydell with having obtained his return by means of bribery and treating. The committee was chosen on the 28th of April; and May 5, 1803, the committee determined, that Thomas Fydell, esq., was not duly elected, and that the election, as to one burgess, was void. Peckwell,
v. i. p. 434.

Upon the ensuing election, Thomas Fydell, jun., esq., was returned; against whose election a petition was presented by John Ogle, esq., May 27, 1803, in which Mr. Fydell's qualification was questioned.

Nov. 23, 1803, the House being informed that Mr. Fydell was abroad at the time when the petition was presented, and that he did not return till the beginning of November, when he was, for the first time, informed of the contents of the petition, and therefore could not comply with the order of the House, 21st Nov. 1717; and the entry in the Ib. v. ii.

Journals of the proceeding in the case of Westbury, 1747, having been read, it was ordered, that Mr. Fydell should be allowed seven days more for delivering in his qualification.

The consideration of this petition was deferred to the next session, but it was not renewed.

CORPORATION.

This town is governed by a mayor, who is clerk of the market and admiral of the coast, a recorder, 12 aldermen, a town-clerk, 18 common-councilmen, a judge, and marshal of the admiralty, a coroner, two sergeants at mace, and other officers. The town was first incorporated by Henry VIII., and Queen Elizabeth gave the corporation a court of admiralty over all the neighbouring sea-coasts.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 400.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This place is remarkable for the many contradictory resolutions of the House of Commons respecting the right of election. It was first resolved to be in the commonalty, then in the mayor, aldermen, common-council, and freemen, and then in the freemen paying scot and lot.

Boston was formerly under the influence of the Dukes of Ancaster and the corporation: the latter were again controlled by Mr. Fydell, a wine-merchant of this town, who represented it in five suc-

cessive Parliaments. After the death of the last Duke of Ancaster, the freemen at the succeeding general election, in 1802, made the first independent choice of one member. W. A. Maddocks, esq., was invited to offer himself a candidate by the independent part of the town, who placed him at the head of the poll; the numbers being,

For W. A. Maddocks, esq. 355

Thomas Fydell, esq. 316

John Ogle, esq. 165

Mr. Ogle offered himself as an independent gentleman, but the corporation influence was not finally defeated till 1807, when W. A. Maddocks, esq., and the Hon. Peter Robert Drummond Burrel were chosen.

An attempt was again made by the corporation, or ministerial party, to bring in Sir Abraham Hume at the last general election, in 1812, but without success; the numbers on the poll being,

For W. A. Maddocks, esq. 263

Hon. P. R. D. Burrell 223

Sir Abraham Hume 206

On hearing the petition of certain electors against the return of Thomas Fydell, esq., which was heard on the 28th of April, 1803, it appeared that a number of non-resident freemen had their names inserted in the poor's rates for houses that were occupied by persons not free, in order to give them a colourable pretence to vote as freemen, being resident and paying scot and lot, agreeably to the last resolutions of the House.

These votes were all deemed bad. It was also proved that these pretended residents received

each of them five guineas from the sitting member, or his agents, at the time of the election. The counsel for the sitting member endeavoured to prove that this money was paid on the score of travelling expenses; but some of the witnesses swore they had been paid separately for these; and as there was evidence of the same sum of five guineas having been paid to resident voters, as well as other acts amounting to bribery, such as the promise by the sitting member to one of a tide-waiter's place in the customs, and to another, who was a butcher, a pasture adjoining the town. The committee determined, "That Thomas Fydell, esq., was not duly elected, and that the election as to him was void."

Mr. Fydell having lost his seat for bribery, became incapable of being re-elected. His son, Thomas Fydell, junior, esq., became a candidate in his room, and was opposed by Colonel Ogle. Mr. Fydell junior was returned, and a petition was presented against his return, and actions for bribery were commenced against him. The consideration of the petition was deferred to the next session; in the mean time, a compromise took place between the parties, and this cause has not since been heard of.

MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX, an inland county of England, situate on the south-eastern part of the island, is bounded on the north by Hertfordshire, on the east by Essex, from which it is separated by the river Lea; on the south by Surrey, from which it is divided by the river Thames; and on the west by Buckinghamshire, from which it is separated by the river Coln. It is of a very irregular shape, and is about 25 miles long, and 14 broad, containing 280 square miles, or 179,200 acres, of which about 100,000 are in pasturage, 40,000 arable, and 15,000 occupied by market-gardens, cultivated for the supply of the metropolis with vegetables and roots. It is divided into 6 hundreds, viz. Edmon-ton, Elthorne, Gore, Isleworth, Kensington, and Spelthorn, and 3 divisions, Finsbury, Holborn, and the Tower Division. Beside these it contains the city of London within and without the walls, and the city and liberties of Westminster. It is subdivided into 230 parishes, precincts, and extra-parochial jurisdictions, whereof 122 are within the city of London, 10 in the city and liberties of Westminster, and 98 in the rest of the county. According to the return made to Parliament in the year 1801, this county contained 112,912 houses, inhabited by 818,129 persons, of whom 373,655 were males, and 444,474 females; of this number

162,260 were employed in trade, and 13,417 in agriculture. The amount of money raised for the relief of the poor, in 1803, was 490,144*l.* at the rate of 3*s.* 5½*d.* in the pound. In 1806, the total amount of the value of property returned under the property tax act, was 21,382,633*l.* This county contains the two cities of London and Westminster, and nine market towns, viz. Barnet, Southall, Finchley, Uxbridge, Brentford, Hounslow, Edgware, Staines, and Enfield. It is most excellently and abundantly supplied with water by means of the rivers Thames, Lea, Coln, Brent, and the New River. The soil in some places is loamy, in others gravel, clay, or sand; but that part of the county which lies round London, owing to the great plenty of manure, is converted into rich pasture; whilst towards Buckinghamshire, there are some considerable tracts of arable land, which produce good crops of corn. On the sides of the rivers Thames, Coln, and Lea, there are very extensive meadows. The number of cows kept by the cow-keepers in Middlesex, for the supply of the inhabitants of the metropolis with milk, amounts to 7,200, besides 1,300 kept in Surrey and Kent. There are still several extensive heaths in this county, particularly that of Hounslow, and Finchley common, which latter stretches to the borders of Enfield chace, a large tract of wood land, well stocked with deer, and extends nearly to Epping Forest, in Essex. The produce of hay for the London market, is the principal object of the farmers in this county. The whole county may be considered as a sort of demesne to the metropolis, being

covered with the villas of the principal nobility and gentry, intersected by the innumerable roads leading to it, or laid out in gardens, pastures, and enclosures of all sorts for its convenience and support. The increase of buildings and other improvements within the last century, are astonishing, and Chelsea, Islington, Paddington, Pancras, &c. formerly villages at a distance from the metropolis, are now completely united with it. Middlesex received its name from having been inhabited by a party of Saxons, who being situated in the midst of the three petty kingdoms of the east, west, and south Saxons, called themselves, or were called by their neighbours middle Saxons, which in common conversation was soon abbreviated into Middlesex. This county sends only eight members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, four for London, and two for Westminster.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has been represented in Parliament, from the first time of the general summons for knights of the shire in the reign of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. Oct. 26, 1680, the House taking notice, that one Mr. Dangerfield (an evidence concerning the Popish plot) had in his information, mentioned Sir Robert Peyton, a member of this House, and Knight of the shire for this county.

Dec. 14, Sir Robert Peyton was heard in his defence, and being withdrawn, the House made the following vote:

“ That Sir Robert Peyton had secret negotiations with the Duke of York, by means of the Earl

of Peterborough, Mr. Collier, and Mr. Gadbury, at such time when they were turning the Popish plot on the Protestants”—and

Ordered: “That Sir Robert Peyton be expelled this House, and that Sir Robert Peyton, be brought to the bar, and receive the censure of this House *on his knees*, from Mr. Speaker.”

The sergeant at arms acquainted the House, that Sir Robert Peyton, had absented himself—whereupon it was

Ordered, “That the said Sir Robert Peyton, be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms.”

15th, Ordered, “That Sir Robert Peyton, being now in the custody of the sergeant at arms, be brought to the bar, and do receive the censure of this House *on his knees* from Mr. Speaker, and that then he be discharged from further confinement, on paying his fees.”

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of Henry Barker, esq., against the return of Sir John Austin.

No report appears.

This county is remarkable for that true spirit of independence which the freeholders displayed in their contest with the House of Commons, from the year 1768 to the year 1782.

The important subject which engaged their attention is the greatest that mankind can be employed in; and the firmness and resolution with which they supported their own rights, and those of their fellow citizens, will be handed down to posterity with that enthusiastic applause which their patriotic labours of fourteen years so richly merit, and which, being finally crowned with success, holds up a lesson to future administrations

that, however venal and corrupt their adherents may be, the spirit of honest perseverance will always prevail over ministerial influence.

At the general election in 1768, John Wilkes, esq. who was just returned from his exile, was unanimously nominated, at a numerous meeting of the freeholders of this county, held at the assembly-room, at Mile End, on the 20th March, to represent this county in Parliament. On the 28th of the same month the election came on at Brentford, when Sir William Beauchamp Proctor, bart., and George Cooke, esq., the late members, were candidates; Mr. Wilkes was also put in nomination, and at the close of the poll, the numbers were, for

John Wilkes, esq.....1292

George Cooke, esq..... 827

Sir W. B. Proctor..... 807

Whereupon the sheriffs, Messieurs Hallifax and Shakespeare, declared Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Cooke to be duly elected. On the 10th of May following, the Parliament met, when no business of consequence was done, except choosing their speaker, &c., until their prorogation.

On the 8th of November, 1768, the Parliament met again, and on the 14th of November following, a petition was presented to the House from Mr. Wilkes, then a prisoner in the King's Bench. This petition, which furnished an occasion for the memorable proceedings that followed, contained a recapitulation of all the proceedings against Mr. Wilkes, from the time of his first apprehension, by a general warrant in April, 1763, to

the time of his commitment to the King's Bench prison, in 1768.

The petition produced an order, for the proper officers to lay before the House a copy of the records of the proceedings upon the several informations in the court of King's Bench against Mr. Wilkes. After which, the journals and resolutions of the House, upon that subject, in the year 1763, being examined, a day was appointed for the hearing of the matter of the petition, and also of the proceedings in the court of King's Bench, of which notice was ordered to be given to Mr. Wilkes; a great number of persons also, who were concerned as actors or witnesses in these transactions, among whom was Mr. Webb, late secretary to the Treasury, and against whom a heavy charge was laid in the petition, were ordered to attend the House at the same time. Some persons of great weight in opposition, from the beginning, recommended to the ministry, that this petition should be passed by without notice, and very strongly pointed out the mischievous consequences, which must attend an enquiry into that sort of matter to the House at large, and particularly to the ministers themselves. During this interval, some motions were made upon the subject, the want of success in which seemed indicative of the disposition that prevailed within doors, in regard to the popular prisoner, whose present situation excited the greatest attention without. Among these, it was moved to address his majesty, that the auditor of the impress should lay before the House copies of all such accounts as

had been passed, declared, or received, from Philip Carteret Webb, esq., since Midsummer, 1762, which was passed in the negative. In the mean time Mr. Webb petitioned for an opportunity to vindicate himself, at the bar of the House, from the charges that were made against him ; which he was allowed to do, either by himself or his counsel, at the time of hearing the matter of the petition. Application having been made also by Mr. Wilkes for liberty to attend the House, in order to support the allegations of his petition, it was complied with, and liberty of counsel allowed him for that purpose. After these previous steps had been taken, the time for hearing the matter of the petition, which had been originally fixed for the 2d of December, was however put off to the 12th of the same month ; after which it was finally adjourned to the 27th of the following January ; at which time the ministry seemed undetermined how to act ; but a proceeding of Mr. Wilkes afforded a new opportunity or pretence to renew the prosecution against him. On one hand, many in administration and office were exceedingly averse to taking any step relative to this gentleman, as many inconveniencies had formerly been experienced from such a conduct, and more were apprehended from a revival of it. Neither did the opposition seem willing to press the minister on that business. The very motion by which Mr. Wilkes's petition had been introduced into that House, having prayed no more than that it should lie on the table ; a method, according to the custom of that assembly, of civilly passing into obli-

vion such matters as they do not choose to attend to, or formally to reject. It seems, however, that the party most animated towards the prosecution prevailed at length.

Mr. Wilkes, having by some means procured a copy of a letter from the secretary of state to certain magistrates of Surry, respecting their employing the military to aid the civil power in quelling a riot in St. George's Fields, by which Mr. Allen, a young man of exemplary character and respectable connexions, lost his life.*

The secretary of state acknowledged himself the writer of the letter, and made a complaint in the House of Lords, as a peer, of a breach of privilege; and the publishers of the newspapers having acknowledged that they received a copy of the letter from Mr. Wilkes, a complaint was made to the Commons of the conduct of their member, and a conference held upon the subject by the two Houses; and the matter being agitated, during the enquiry into the merits of Mr. Wilkes's petition, he with great boldness, before the House, confessed himself the author of the prefatory remarks, as well as of having sent the whole to the news-printer.

The matter of the petition having undergone a long examination, during which Mr. Wilkes, in the custody of the marshal of the King's Bench, attended the House, it was finally resolved, "That the two orders made by Lord Mansfield, lord chief

* A monument to commemorate this fatal catastrophe is erected in the church-yard of St. Mary, Newington.

justice of the King's Bench, for the amendment of the information exhibited in the said court against Mr. Wilkes, were according to law and justice, and the practice of the said court: that the complaint of Mr. Wilkes in respect thereof is frivolous; and that the aspersions upon the said chief justice for making the said two orders, truly conveyed, are utterly groundless, and tend to prejudice the minds of the people against the administration of public justice." It was at the same time resolved, that the charge against Philip Carteret Webb, esq., was not made good.

The secretary of state's letter, and the prefatory remarks, were next day taken under consideration, when it was resolved, "That the introduction of a letter, addressed to Daniel Ponton, esq., chairman of the quarter-sessions at Lambeth, of which John Wilkes, esq., a member of the House, had confessed himself the author and publisher, was an insolent, scandalous, and malicious libel, tending to inflame the minds of his majesty's subjects to sedition, and to a total subversion of all good order and legal government."

These resolutions were immediately, after long and violent debates, followed by expulsion; in the vote of which, his former crimes, for which he was now suffering punishment, were complicated with the present charge; and a new writ was accordingly issued for the election of a member in his room.

The next day, at a very numerous meeting of the freeholders of Middlesex, held at the Mile-end assembly-room, George Bellas, esq., was called to the chair, when James Townshend, esq., member

of Parliament for Westlooe, in Cornwall, and afterwards alderman of London, recommended the resolution of re-electing Mr. Wilkes in a very elegant and animated speech, in which he observed, that he had never seen nor spoken to Mr. Wilkes before his late expulsion; that he regarded his cause solely as the cause of the people, divested of every personal consideration or connexion; that the oppression and injuries Mr. Wilkes had suffered were sufficient to rouse the indignation of every man, who had one generous sentiment in his breast, or the least sense of freedom and regard for the constitution; and that he would assert the right of the freeholders to the choice of their representatives, by going to give his vote for Mr. Wilkes, in case of future expulsion, as long as he should have a shilling left, or one leg to hop down to Brentford.

John Sawbridge, esq., member for Hythe, in Kent, seconded this motion with great spirit, concluding with the words of Mr. Wilkes's address, "That if once the ministry shall be permitted to say whom the freeholders shall *not* choose, the next step will be to tell them whom they *shall* choose."

Mr. Horne, Samuel Vaughan, esq., Sir Francis Blake Delaval, — Eyre, esq., — Jones, esq., and many other gentlemen of property and character, spoke to the same effect.

Mr. Wilkes was re-elected at Brentford on the 16th, member for the county, by the unanimous voice of above two thousand of the most respectable freeholders, who, notwithstanding it proved a

very wet day, attended at their own expense, early in the morning, to support this re-election, lest any candidate in the opposite interest should have been, by a party, attempted to be surprised upon the county at the hustings. Every thing was conducted with the most strict and singular good order. He was put up by James Townshend, esq., member for Westlooe, and when the re-election was declared, they all around testified their joy by the most loud and unanimous shouts of applause. It may be truly said that this re-election did not cost Mr. Wilkes a single shilling, so unanimous and so hearty were the people in his favour.

The next day, the 17th of February, 1769, the return of the previous day having been made to the House, it was resolved, "That Mr. Wilkes having been expelled this session, was, and is, incapable of being elected a member of the present Parliament." This second election was declared void, and a new writ ordered to be issued accordingly.

On the 16th of March, a third election was held at Brentford, for the choice of a knight of the shire, when Charles Dingley made an offer to oppose this popular candidate; but being very roughly handled by the populace, he thought it most prudent to decline, upon which Mr. Wilkes was again re-elected without opposition.

It appears that, at the above election, Mr. Dingley had not properly considered how far his natural fortitude was equal to the arduous task of opposing the predominant spirit of a free people; if he had stood the poll only for one hour, it was the deter-

mination of ministry, as they had declared in the circle of their private friends, to get him seated by a special vote of the House, as they afterwards did in the case of Colonel Luttrell. The reception, however, that he met with, and the countenance of the freeholders, had such an effect upon him, that he was glad to retire with his life, not having been able to find a man in the county that was hardy enough to put him in nomination. This election, as well as the former, was declared void, and near another month was suffered to elapse before the time was fixed for a new one. It was now thought that this mode of electing and declaring void would have been carried on to the end of the session ; and that it would then have lain over to the next meeting, in which time the minds of men might have cooled, or some impediment might have been found to change the nature of the discussion ; and many thought that, in the present circumstances, it would have been the most prudent conduct that could have been pursued ; for though great debates arose concerning the resolution of incapacitation, and the subsequent ones of voiding the election, yet the public did not think themselves so much interested in them, nor their rights in any degree so materially affected, as by the succeeding measure.

A different conduct was however adopted, a gentleman in a military character, and of considerable connexions, though of no fortune or interest immediately in the county, was hardy enough to vacate his seat in Parliament, by the acceptance of a nominal place, and to encounter the whole weight

of popular odium, by declaring himself a candidate for the county of Middlesex; a measure at that time supposed to be attended with so much danger, that policies were said to have been opened upon his life at some of the insurance offices in the city.

This danger however proved to be only imaginary; for though some riots happened upon the road, the election was conducted with great order; the fear of giving any handle to dispute its validity having proved superior to every other consideration with the freeholders. Though the whole weight of court interest was thrown into the scale in this gentleman's favour, yet a majority of near four to one appeared against him upon the election; the numbers being, on the poll,

For John Wilkes, esq. 1143

Colonel Luttrell, only 296

Majority in favour of the cause of liberty 847

Two days after this election, a resolution was carried in the House, by a majority of 221 to 139, that Colonel Luttrell ought to have been returned a knight of the shire for the county of Middlesex; and the deputy-clerk of the crown was ordered to amend the return, by rasing out the name of Mr. Wilkes, and inserting that of Colonel Luttrell in its place. Fourteen days having been allowed for a petition against this decision, one was accordingly presented, signed by several freeholders, which was again brought into very warm and serious debate; when, however, upon a division, the former resolution was confirmed by a majority.

As no public measure, since the accession of the present royal family, had incited so general an alarm, or caused so universal a discontent as the present, so was no other ever opposed with more firmness, or debated with greater ability; nor has any other political subject been so ably discussed without doors, or productive of so many masterly writings.

Mr. Cooke, the other member for Middlesex, died in October, 1768. On the 8th of November following, the election came on at Brentford, for a knight of the shire in his room, when Sir William Beauchamp Proctor, the late member, who had been ousted by Mr. Wilkes, became a candidate in the ministerial interest, and John Glynn, esq., sergeant at law, was proposed by the friends of liberty. About two of the clock, Mr. Sergeant Glynn having polled a great majority over his opponent, a desperate riot broke out on a sudden, the mob mounted the hustings, attempted to seize the poll-books, and entirely put a stop to the election. Great numbers of freeholders were hurt in trying to get away, and the remainder of the day was a scene of riot and confusion. The election was continued by various adjournments, until the 14th of the same month, when the poll was finally closed; the numbers being,

For Mr. Sergeant Glynn 1,542

Sir W. B. Proctor 1,278

—

Majority for Mr. Sergeant Glynn 264

Whereupon that gentleman was declared duly elected. The numbers polled at this election ex-

ceeded by forty-two the greatest number polled upon any preceding occasion.

The riot on the 8th instant, by the friends of Sir W. B. Proctor having the label "Proctor and liberty" in their hats, was productive of most serious consequences. Mr. George Clarke, a young gentleman was murdered by one of those miscreants, as he stood at the hustings, during the time of polling. The body was taken to the White Hart, Welbeck-street, where the coroner's inquest was taken, before Edward Umfreville, esq., one of the coroners of the county of Middlesex, and a very respectable jury, when it appeared, from very clear and positive evidence, that his death was occasioned by a blow given him by a stick or bludgeon, by some of the mob concerned in the riot, during the election on the 8th instant. The jury, very prudently, desired to have the assistance and opinion of a surgeon; when a very eminent one was sent for, who, after opening the head of the deceased, and examining him in a very particular manner, gave his opinion, that the said blow was the cause of his death. The jury, without the least hesitation, gave in their verdict, "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

Laurence Balf and Edward Macquirk were afterwards apprehended for the above murder, and took their trial at the Old Bailey on the 14th of January, 1769, when it appeared that the prisoners were hired, with others, previous to the day of election, for the purpose of keeping the peace, and

assisting the friends of Sir W. B. Proctor; that for some time the poll went on with the greatest regularity, and without the least interruption; that all at once the prisoners, with others, began in a most outrageous manner to strike and knock down, indiscriminately, all who came in their way; and that the deceased was one of the unhappy persons who was thus violently attacked. They were both, upon the clearest evidence, found guilty. The recorder then passed sentence of death, and in his speech observed, that the procurers, however dignified, as well as the prisoners, were not exempt, by our laws, from equal punishment.

The trial lasted fourteen hours, and was attended by the fullest court ever known.

These men, as well as those concerned in the murder of Mr. Allen, afterwards received his majesty's free pardon.

Although Colonel Luttrell continued to keep his seat, in consequence of the unconstitutional decision of the House of Commons, until the close of that Parliament in 1774, he was never acknowledged by the electors of Middlesex, or by the people at large, as one of their representatives; and whenever an order was made for a call of the House, the sheriffs of Middlesex always summoned John Wilkes, esq., and John Glynn, esq., to attend their duty in Parliament, as the legal representatives of the county.

At the ensuing general election, in 1774, Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Sergeant Glynn were unanimously re-elected, and the House of Commons, feeling

themselves so unequal to opposing the sense of a whole nation, suffered Mr. Wilkes to take his seat without any further opposition.

This county unfortunately losing Mr. Sergeant Glynn in the year 1779, who died in the month of September, the minister, aided by the late Duke of Northumberland, again attempted to obtrude a representative upon the county, and Colonel Tuffnell accordingly vacated his seat for Beverley, to become a candidate upon that interest. The late George Byng, esq., who was at that time member for Wigan, in the county of Lancaster, was put in nomination by the patriotic party, but the minister refusing to give the Chiltern Hundreds to this gentleman, as he had done to Colonel Tuffnell, prevented his being in a capacity, at that time, to accept of the honour intended him. The independent gentlemen of the county then prevailed upon Mr. Wood, of Littleton, to become their representative for the remainder of that Parliament, when Mr. Byng's incapacity would be removed by its dissolution.

Upon Mr. Wood's coinciding with the wishes of the freeholders, Colonel Tuffnell, being convinced that he had no chance of succeeding, declined the contest, and Mr. Wood was unanimously elected.

At the general election in 1786, Mr. Byng was unanimously chosen, together with Mr. Wilkes, who received that honour from his constituents the sixth time.

On the 3d of May, 1782, the motion which had been annually made for twelve years, for expunging

from the Journals of the House of Commons the famous resolution of the 17th of February, 1769, for the expulsion of Mr. Wilkes, after so long a succession of defeats, now terminated, by a majority of 68 ; the numbers on the division being, ayes 115, noes 47, for rescinding it. It was afterwards resolved unanimously, that the said expulsion was illegal and unconstitutional.

The coalition taking place the following year, was productive of exactly the same consequences between the representatives of this county, as with the members for Westminster. Mr. Mainwaring was proposed as a candidate, in opposition to Mr. Byng, and was elected by a considerable majority, in conjunction with Mr. Wilkes, at the dissolution of the Parliament which took place in 1784.

At the general election in 1790, Mr. Wilkes declined the honour of sitting in Parliament, and was succeeded by George Byng, esq., son of the late member, and Mr. Mainwaring was re-chosen.

These gentlemen continued to represent this county till 1802, when the most severe contest in the history of representation took place. Sir Francis Burdett, the most popular character ever known in this, or perhaps any other country, became a candidate. He offered himself only on the weight of individual rectitude and public esteem ; but he had to oppose the whole torrent of court and ministerial influence ; the clergy, aristocracy, Bank, East India Company, and all the government offices and their dependent institutions throughout the metropolis. The contest continued to the latest moment allowable by law ;

and as it was the most interesting to public feeling at the time, it will be equally important to transmit an impartial history of it to posterity.

On the day of election, the road leading to Brentford was crowded with carriages and horsemen at an early hour. The candidates arriving, the horses were taken from the carriage of Sir Francis Burdett, and he was drawn into the town amidst the enthusiastic plaudits of a surrounding crowd of electors. Mr. Byng experienced a reception something similar, while that of Mr. Mainwaring was unfavourable in the extreme. In a few minutes, the candidates, attended by their friends, appeared on the hustings; and the sheriffs having opened the business of the meeting, Mr. Perry, of Blackwall, proposed Mr. Mainwaring, which was seconded by Mr. Elliot of Westminster, but received with every mark of disapprobation.

Mr. Alderman Skinner then proposed George Byng, esq., which was seconded by Mr. Bacon, and received with great applause.

Mr. Alderman Combe then proposed Sir Francis Burdett, whose name was no sooner pronounced, than the air rung with acclamations. He was seconded by Mr. Britton.

The several candidates were then put in nomination. Mr. Mainwaring was the first; the show of hands was about one-third of the electors; Mr. Byng, two-thirds; and Sir Francis Burdett nearly the whole present. The sheriffs then declared the election to have fallen on Mr. Byng and Sir Francis Burdett. Mr. Mainwaring, however, demanded a poll, which immediately commenced, and conti-

nued for fifteen days, at the final close of which the numbers were,

For George Byng, esq. 3848

Sir Francis Burdett 3207

William Mainwaring, esq. 2936

The sheriffs, therefore, declared Mr. Byng and Sir Francis Burdett duly elected. The applause that succeeded this declaration is impossible to be described.

The members addressed the county in acknowledgment of the high honour conferred on them; and Mr. Mainwaring, taking the advantage of that opportunity to retire, the chairs were brought forward for the purpose of chairing the successful candidates; they were then borne on the shoulders of the multitude round the square, and through the town of Brentford, amidst the acclamations of thousands of spectators.

After the members had been chaired round the town, they were carried to the foot of Kew Bridge, where their carriages were ready to receive them, and in which they proceeded to London, attended by a procession of above a thousand coaches, chaises, &c., which, with the horsemen, extending several miles, was two hours in passing through Piccadilly to the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, where a large party of the friends of liberty had assembled to receive them.

When Sir Francis Burdett arrived at Kensington, the populace took the horses from his carriage, and drew him in great triumph to the Strand.

PETITIONS, &c. Mr. Mainwaring petitioned against the return of Sir Francis Burdett, on the

ground of partiality in the sheriff, admitting unqualified persons to vote for the sitting member; and renewed his said petition on the 23d of November, 1803.

A petition of several freeholders of the county of Middlesex was read, Dec. 7, stating, first, the names of the three candidates at the election, and the return of Sir F. Burdett and G. Byng, esq.; 2d. that W. Mainwaring, esq., the unsuccessful candidate, had petitioned against the return of Sir F. Burdett; 3d. that Mr. Mainwaring had not the legal majority of votes; that he was disqualified both in respect of estate and of his holding certain offices; that he had been guilty of bribery and treating, of using undue influence, of threatening the voters of Sir F. Burdett, of endeavouring to overawe the returning officer, of procuring paupers to swear themselves possessed of tenements to the value of forty shillings a year, and of endeavouring to procure a majority of votes by various other unjust, illegal, and unconstitutional means.

The debate on this case was adjourned to the 13th of December, when the question was put, and carried without a division in the affirmative, that the petition be withdrawn.

On Monday, July 9, the committee having sat 120 days, reported that Sir F. Burdett was not duly elected; that W. Mainwaring, esq., was duly elected, and ought to have been returned; that, at the last election, W. Mainwaring, esq., did, by his agents, commit acts of treating, whereby he was incapacitated to serve in Parliament upon such election; that the last election was void, so

far as it respected the return of the said Sir Francis Burdett, together with the usual resolutions, that neither the petitions nor the opposition to them were frivolous or vexatious.

Peckwell,
vol. ii.,
p. 338.

George Bolton Mainwaring, esq., having been returned, several electors presented a petition, Jan. 25, 1805, stating, that Sir Francis Burdett had the majority of votes, and ought to have been returned in his stead. The committee was appointed Feb. 19, and on the 5th of March determined, that Mr. G. B. Mainwaring was not duly elected, and that Sir F. Burdett ought to have been returned. The report having been made to the House the same day, it was ordered that the return should be amended, and leave was given to Mr. Mainwaring and the freeholders to question the election of Sir Francis Burdett within fourteen days, if they should think fit.

Ibid., v. ii.,
p. 387.

Mr. G. B. Mainwaring, and certain electors in his interest, having petitioned against the election of Sir F. Burdett, March 13, 1805, the committee was appointed Feb. 7, 1806. The clerk of the crown produced the last return for the county of Middlesex, and the order of the House that the return should be so amended was likewise read in evidence. The poll for the last election was then put in, and the numbers appearing to be for Sir Francis Burdett 2,833, and for Mr. Mainwaring 2,832, the counsel for the petition produced evidence to disqualify two of the voters for Sir Francis Burdett, upon which the committee (Feb. 8,) resolved, Mr. Mainwaring to be duly elected,

They also resolved the petition not to be frivolous or vexatious, and that the election was not vexatious or corrupt.

These three elections and petitions are said to have cost Sir Francis Burdett above one hundred thousand pounds.

At the general election in 1806, Sir Francis Burdett was again proposed, and supported by 1,200 independent freeholders, who came to Brentford, and voted at their own expense; but as he neither canvassed, nor became accountable for any election charges, Mr. Mellish was chosen in the room of Mr. Mainwaring, jun., and Mr. Byng was re-elected.

On the dissolution of what is generally called the Short Parliament, in 1807, Sir Christopher Baynes, bart., opposed Mr. Byng; but the latter was re-elected, with Mr. Mellish, by a majority of more than two to one.

At the last general election, in 1812, Mr. Byng and Mr. Mellish were chosen without opposition.

CITY OF LONDON.

LONDON, the metropolis of the British empire, is situated on the north banks of the river Thames, in the county of Middlesex. London appears to have been founded by the inhabitants of Britain in times prior to the Roman invasion under Cæsar. The first mention of London in authentic history is by Tacitus, who speaks of its being sacked in the year 61, under the Emperor Nero, by the Bri-

tish Queen Boadicea. It was then a place of importance among the Roman possessions in Britain, and, according to that author, was the chief residence of merchants, and the great mart of trade and commerce. Under the Emperor Claudius it became a Roman colony, and was governed by a prefect, annually sent from Rome, who administered the laws of the empire to the inhabitants, consisting not only of Romans but Britons. During the ravages committed in Britain by the Danes, London suffered materially; but Alfred having driven out the invaders, not only repaired the walls and towers, but embellished the city with additional buildings, and constituted London the metropolis of the country. At the time of the Norman Conquest, London was a place of great wealth and power, and its civil government and privileges, as they existed under the Saxons, were confirmed by two charters from the Conqueror. In the reign of Henry I., it obtained a most important grant, by the annexation of the county of Middlesex to its jurisdiction, with a power of appointing a sheriff and justiciary from among the citizens; and it was at this period that companies began to be established, according to the arts, mysteries, or manufactures of those who composed them.

On the death of Henry I., the citizens assisted King Stephen in his endeavours to obtain the crown, and purchased of him the right of choosing their own sheriffs. Henry II. granted a new charter, which confirmed their liberties and immunities. In the reign of King Richard I., on the day preceding his coronation, London was disgraced by

the massacre of nearly all the Jews residing in it. In this reign the citizens purchased of the king the conservancy of the river Thames, with a power of removing obstructions. In the reign of John, 1207, Henry Fitz-Alwyn took the title of mayor, instead of custos and bailiff, under which names he had held that dignity for 20 years successively. Henry III. harassed the citizens, by seizing their charters, and making them purchase new ones; and in the reign of Edward I. the city was divided into 24 wards, the supreme magistrate of which had the ancient Saxon title of alderman, and each ward chose some of the inhabitants as a common-council, who were sworn into their office, and who were to be consulted by the aldermen, and their advice followed in all public affairs relating to the city. In the year 1327, King Edward III. granted the citizens two charters; by the first of which it was ordained that the mayor shall be constantly one of the judges of oyer and terminer for the trial of criminals confined in Newgate, &c. By the second charter, Southwark was granted to the citizens. In the year 1354, the same prince granted the city the privilege of having a gold or silver mace carried before the chief magistrate; a privilege then peculiar to London; and it was about this time when, it is supposed by some, that the title of lord was first added to that of mayor.

In the reign of Henry IV., the privileges of the city were extended in several instances. On the return of Henry V. from the battle of Agincourt, the citizens distinguished themselves by the splen-

did cavalcade with which they conducted that brave prince through the city. In 1416, Sir Henry Barton, lord-mayor, first ordered lanterns to be hung out to illuminate the streets by night. Edward IV. granted a new charter of confirmation to the citizens, and extended their privileges. The conduct of Henry VII. to the citizens was oppressive, the extortion of his ministers Empson and Dudley being very great. The reign of Henry VIII. was remarkable for the dissolution of the monasteries ; and it is almost incredible how many magnificent churches, cloisters, libraries, and other buildings in the metropolis, were ruined. King Edward VI. in the year 1551, gave the city a charter, by which he not only confirmed all its former privileges, but granted the lord mayor, aldermen, and citizens, several lands and tenements in Southwark, with the manor thereof ; the assize of bread, wine, beer, and ale ; a fair for three days ; and the offices of coroner, escheator and clerk of the market, which are for ever vested in the lord mayor and his successors. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth commerce received a new impulse by the erection of the Royal Exchange, for the meeting of merchants to transact their business. In 1588, when the country was threatened by the Spanish armada, the city unanimously resolved, not only to raise ten thousand troops, but voted, in addition, 16 of the largest ships in the river Thames, and four pinnaces ; they were fitted out with the utmost expedition, and the charge defrayed, both of men and ships, during the time they continued in the queen's service. In the reign of James I.,

London received improvements of a different kind from any we have yet mentioned ; the New River was brought to Islington from Amwell, in Hertfordshire, in 1613. In 1615, the sides of the principal streets, which had before been laid with pebbles were now paved with flags. During the unhappy reign of Charles I., great disputes arose between the king and the city, in relation to ship-money, loans, and other grievances ; but even in the midst of these disputes, and whilst the king was actually opposing the liberties of the citizens, he granted them several charters, by which he confirmed all their former privileges, and added some new ones ; however, the citizens entered heartily into the measures of the Parliament against him, and fortified the city with forts, joined by a line of circumvallation, formed by a rampart of earth, which on all sides surrounded London, Westminster, and Southwark.

On the death of Oliver Cromwell, the citizens made a strong opposition to the Committee of Safety, declared for a free Parliament, and refused to advance resources to the then Government : on which, General Monk was ordered to march into the city with his army, who broke and cut to pieces the city gates, portcullises, and posts. After this the city joined with General Monk in bringing about the Restoration ; and on the 29th of May, 1660, the lord-mayor and aldermen went out and met King Charles II. in St. George's Fields. In 1663, the king granted the city a confirmation of all their ancient charters, privileges, liberties, rights, and customs ; and the citizens in return advanced

considerable sums of money towards carrying on the war with Holland, for which they received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. In the reign of James II., the city, remonstrating to the king on the slowness of the court in the business of the popish plot, so highly offended him, that he declared their privileges forfeited, and their charter at his disposal; but, frightened by his own temerity, he sent for the lord-mayor and aldermen, and promised to restore their charter in its full extent, which he accordingly did. On the Revolution taking place, to which the citizens of London contributed very much, they had little difficulty in obtaining a full confirmation of their rights and privileges from King William and Queen Mary. The most remarkable occurrence relating to the city in the reign of Queen Anne was the act authorizing the building of 50 new churches. During his present majesty's reign, London has undergone, from the spirit and wealth of its citizens, a multitude of improvements.

The population of London, according to the return made to Parliament in 1801, is contained in the following enumeration:—

	Inhabited Houses.	Males.	Females.	Total.
City of London within and without the walls	30,904	106,847	115,553	222,399
City and Liberties of Westminster	18,231	71,301	86,909	158,210
Out Parishes in Middlesex and Surrey . . .	56,207	163,899	200,627	364,526
Parishes not within the Bills of Mortality .	14,657	50,029	67,773	117,802
Inns of Court extra parochial	1,230	1,293	614	1,907
	121,229	393,369	471,476	864,825

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This ancient city has sent members to Parliament with all the counties of England from the 49th of Henry III. to the present time.

PETITIONS, &c. April 2, 1690. A petition of Sir Thomas Pilkington, Sir Robert Clayton, Sir Patience Ward, and Sir William Ashurst, touching the right of election.

No determination.

Feb. 22, 1700. Gilbert Heathcott, esq., a member of this House, being concerned with Sir Henry Furnese, a member for Sandwich, as a trustee for circulating exchequer bills.

Resolved: "That the said Gilbert Heathcott, esq., is guilty of a breach of the act made in the 5th and 6th years of the reign of his present Majesty, King William, and the late Queen Mary, entitled, "An act for granting their Majesties certain rates and duties upon salt, beer, ale, and other liquors, &c., &c."

Resolved: "That the said Gilbert Heathcott, esq., be, for the breach of the said act, expelled this House:" and a new writ was ordered.

March 5, 1713. A petition of several aldermen, and a great number of liverymen, free of this city, against the illegal return of Sir Richard Hoar, Sir William Withers, Sir John Cass, and Sir George Newland, knts.

A motion was made to hear the matter of this petition at the bar, but was disagreed to.

— 6. A petition of John Ward, Thomas

Scawen, Robert Heysham, and Peter Godfrey, esqrs., against the same illegal return.

No report appears.

Parl. 13. John Roberts, esq., petitioned against Mr. Bull's election, but afterwards requested leave to withdraw it; which the House granted.

Parl 16. Richard Atkinson, esq., and some of the voters, petitioned against the election of John Sawbridge, esq. :—not renewed the 2d session.

Imp. Parl. 2. Sir Watkin Lewes and some of the freemen petitioned; renewed the 2d session, March, 1804. The chairman of the committee reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected, and that the petition was frivolous and vexatious.

This city, which is the first in magnitude, population, commerce, and opulence, in Europe, has no more weight in the legislative representation of the country, than the united boroughs of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, which are the property of an individual. Its members are not the representatives of the inhabitant housekeepers, resident and paying taxes within the city, but of a corporate franchise, derived under ancient charters, limited and confirmed by an act of parliament 11 George I. chap. 18, sect. 1, to the liverymen of the said city. In order to be possessed of this elective right, a man must have obtained his freedom of one of the trading companies, and likewise of the city of London, either by birth, as the son of a freeman born after his father became free, by servitude, as having served seven years' apprentice-

ship to a freeman, by gift of the corporation, or by purchase, and afterwards by being admitted to the livery of one of the companies. This last qualification was not always necessary, the right of election anciently having been in the freemen at large, which was the subject of many contests, until 11 George I. gave a peremptory right to the livery only. The present number is under 12,000; but if the right were in the freemen at large, the electors would be nearly ten times that number; or if it were in the inhabitant housekeepers, agreeable to our ancient free constitution, the number would be 31,000.

CORPORATION.

The civil government of this city is the first and best in this country, both with regard to the respectability of its officers, and their integrity in the administration of justice. The magistrates, chosen by the freemen of each respective ward, are popular in their organization, unshackled by court influence, independent in their offices, and accountable to their fellow-citizens for the impartial discharge of the duties of their function. Their future elevation to the offices of sheriff, mayor, and member of Parliament, depending on the exemplary discharge of their municipal power.

This city is governed by a lord-mayor, a recorder, 26 aldermen, two sheriffs, and 236 common-council. The lord-mayor is chosen out of the 26 aldermen by the livery, on Michaelmas-day, who return two to the court of aldermen, out of whom

the court makes choice of one to serve that important office. The sheriffs are likewise chosen by the livery in common-hall, and may either be selected from the court of aldermen, or from among the freemen at large. The aldermen and common-council are chosen by the inhabitant housekeepers, being freemen of the respective wards, of Aldersgate, Aldgate, Bassishaw, Billingsgate, Bishopsgate, Bread street, Bridge Without, or Southwark, Bridge Within, Broad-street, Candlewick, Castle Baynard, Cheap, Coleman-street, Cordwainer, Cornhill, Cripplegate, Dowgate, Farringdon Without, Farringdon Within, Langborn, Lime-street, Portsoken, Queenhithe, Tower, Vintry, and Walbrook. The aldermen hold their offices for life, but the common-council are elected annually, on St. Thomas's day. The recorder is chosen by the court of aldermen, and holds his office for life. The other city officers of importance are, the chamberlain, common-sergeant, town-clerk, comptroller, collector of the city dues, two judges of the sheriff's court, four city counsel, two secondaries of the Compter, a remembrancer, and solicitor.

The lord-mayor has three esquires of his household, a sword-bearer, a mace-bearer or crier, and water-bailiff, six gentlemen of the household, two city marshals, and six marshal's men.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

By act of parliament 11 George II. in the livery only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—12,000.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Sheriffs.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city has distinguished itself in the page of history by an uniform defence of the rights and liberties of the people; but as it is not consistent with the plan of this work to enlarge upon any subject unconnected with its representative history, we shall only remark, that it has had the honour of sending to Parliament some of the most distinguished patriots who have adorned the country; among whom may be named Sir John Barnard, Sir Stephen Theodore Janssen, Wm. Beckford, esq., John Sawbridge, esq., and that benevolent philanthropist Frederic Bull, esq.; but since the establishment of the Excise and the Bank of England, and the consequent introduction of the military within its walls, contrary to its chartered rights, whose duty, if necessary, should be performed by the city militia; and since the growing importance of the customs and the East India Company, and the increase of government offices, and tax-receivers and collectors, within the city, the ministerial nomination of its members has been submitted to as implicitly as it has been in most of the boroughs. It is to be regretted that the wealthy merchant and wholesale trader can carry on business in this city without its freedom, while the poorest retail dealer, and even journeymen, are not suffered to do so. This compulsion should extend to every description of traders, or be dispensed with in all alike, which would be one means of securing their independence; but when it is recollected that not one-third of the inhabitant householders of the city of London who pay taxes, and the whole body of the

freeholders of London, have no votes at all, nor any share in choosing those representatives by whom they are taxed, our astonishment increases! The number of housekeepers in this city are thirty-one thousand, and the number of voters at any election have never exceeded a fourth part of that amount. The population of London, Westminster, and Middlesex, forms a tenth part of that of all England, while they only send eight members to Parliament out of five hundred and thirteen, which is only a sixty-fourth part of the whole. The boroughs of Old Sarum, Gatton, Midhurst, and St. Mawe's, with only one vote each, send an equal proportion of what are called representatives of the people with London, Westminster, and Middlesex!

This glaring inequality of elective right is equally obvious when compared with Yorkshire, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, and every part of the united kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland!

The number of liverymen who usually vote at an election for the city of London may be ascertained from the last poll in 1812.

Mr. Alderman Combe5125

Sir William Curtis..... 4577

Mr. Alderman Shaw4080

Mr. Alderman Atkins3645

Robert Waithman, esq.....2622

Mr. Alderman Wood2373

Mr. Alderman Combe, Mr. Waithman, and Mr. Alderman Wood, were candidates on the opposition interest, and Sir William Curtis, Mr. Alderman Shaw, and Mr. Alderman Atkins on that of government.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER CITY, a part of the metropolis of London, situated in the county of Middlesex, on the banks of the Thames, lying westward of St. Paul's.—In ancient times it contained nothing remarkable, except its stately abbey, and was situated in a marshy island, called Thorney, surrounded on one side by the Thames, and on the other by a branch of the river called Long Ditch. For many ages it was entirely distinct from London, and the Strand was a road leading thereto, open on one side to the Thames, and on the other to the fields; and is still governed by its own magistrates, and laws distinct from those of the city. It contains 9 parishes, viz. St. Ann's, Soho; St. Clement's Danes; St. George's, Hanover-square; St. James's; St. John's; St. Margaret's; St. Martin's-in-the-fields; St. Mary-le-Strand; and St. Paul's, Covent Garden; which, together with the precinct of the Savoy, and the verge of the palaces of Whitehall and St. James's, contain 18,231 houses, inhabited by 158,210 persons, being 71,301 males, and 86,909 females; of whom 35,031 were returned employed in various trades. The government of the city and liberties thereof, is under the jurisdiction of the dean and chapter of Westminster, in civil as well as ecclesiastical affairs, and their authority extends to the precincts of St. Martin's-le-grand, near Newgate-street, and in some places in Essex, that are exempt from the

jurisdiction of the Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury; but the civil part, ever since the reformation, has been in the hands of laymen, elected and confirmed by the dean and chapter. The principal magistrate is the high steward, usually a nobleman, and chosen for life; a deputy steward chosen by the high steward; and a high bailiff, nominated by the dean, and confirmed by the high steward: there are also 16 burgesses, and a high constable.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city first returned members to Parliament in the 1st of Edward VI.

PETITIONS, &c. Feb. 26, 1620. Sir Thomas Ireland and Mr. Holt reported, touching Mr. Man's election.

Resolved: "That the election was good.

June 21, 1625. Sir John Danvers presented a petition for this city.

No report appears.

June 26, 1661. Sergeant Charleton reported, upon the election of Sir Philip Warwick, and Sir Richard Everard.

Resolved: "That Sir Philip Warwick and Sir Richard Everard are duly elected."

March 20, 1678. A petition of Sir Philip Matthews, bart., and Sir William Waller, knight, against the return of Sir Stephen Fox and Sir William Pultney, by means of undue practices, used by the bailiff of this city and liberty.

— 21. A petition of several inhabitants complaining of the same undue return.

No determination.

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of Sir William Walter.

Nov. 4. A petition of Sir Philip Matthews, touching the election for this city.

Resolved: "That the king's menial servants, not having proper houses of their own within the city, have not a right to give voices in the election of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city."

"That Sir William Pultney, and Sir William Waller, are duly elected citizens to serve in Parliament for this city."

"That Sir Francis Withers is not duly elected." —Which said resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Dec. 14, 1698. A petition of Sir Henry Dutton Colt, against the return of James Vernon and Charles Montague, esqrs., by means of entertainments and menaces.

— 22. Resolved: "That James Vernon and Charles Montague, esqrs., are duly elected."

"That the petition of Sir Henry Dutton Colt, is frivolous, vexatious, and scandalous:—and,

Resolved: "That no alien, not being a denizen or naturalized, has any right to vote in elections of members to serve in Parliament."

Resolved: "That John Leister having arrested a witness on leaving the Committee of Privileges, is guilty of a breach of the privilege of this House, and that for his said offence he be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Nov. 24, 1708. A petition of Sir Henry Dutton Colt against the return of Thomas Medlycot,

esq., steward of the court of this city ; by means of many arbitrary and undue practices of the high bailiff of this city.

— 30th. Ordered : “ That Mr. John Huggins, high bailiff of this city, do attend with the original poll books of the late elections.”

Resolved : “ That Mr. John Huggins, high bailiff of this city, has, in defiance of the laws, arbitrarily and illegally refused to tender the oath of abjuration, and is thereby guilty of a high crime and misdemeanor :”—and,

Ordered : “ That the said high bailiff, for his said offence, be committed to Newgate.”

— 18. Resolved : “ That Thomas Medlycot, esq., is duly elected a citizen, to serve in this present Parliament for this city.”

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of William Lowndes, esq., against the return of Archibald Hutchinson, and John Cotton, esqrs., by means of riotous and disorderly practices.

Nov. 6. Resolved : “ That it appears to this House, that there were notorious riots and tumults at the late election of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city, in defiance of the laws of the realm, and in violation of the privilege of Parliament.”

Resolved : “ That Archibald Hutchinson and John Cotton, esqrs., are not duly elected :”—and further

Resolved : “ That the late election of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city is a void election.”

In 1741, several inhabitants, in behalf of Edward

Vernon and Charles Edwin, esqrs., petitioned against the return of Sir Charles Wager, knt., and Wm. Lord Sundon, whose election was declared void. The last determination of the House, made Nov. 15, 1680, was read, when the House resolved that the King's menial servants not having proper houses of their own within the city have not a right to vote.

Dec. 22, 1741. Resolved: "That Mr. John Lever, high bailiff, at the last election, acted in an illegal and arbitrary manner, in prejudice of the rights and liberties of the electors, and in manifest violation of the freedom of elections."

Resolved: "That it appears to this House, that a body of armed soldiers, headed by officers, did, on Friday, the 8th of May last, come, in a military manner, and take possession of the church-yard of St. Paul, Covent Garden, near the place where the poll was taken, before the said election was ended."

Resolved: "That the presence of a regular body of armed soldiers, at an election of members to serve in Parliament, is a high infringement of the liberties of the subject, a manifest violation of the freedom of elections, and in open defiance of the laws and constitution of this kingdom:"—and,

Ordered: "That John Lever, esq., the high bailiff, Nathaniel Blackerby, George Howard, and Thomas Lediard, esqrs., justices, who ordered the soldiers to attend, be severally taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

1751. A petition of Sir George Vandeput,

bart., against the return of Granville, Viscount Trentham.

A petition of the several burgesses and inhabitants of the city and liberty of Westminster, whose names were thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves and several other burgesses and inhabitants of the said city and liberty, was presented to the House, and read, on Monday, Jan. 28, complaining of an undue election and return for the said city; and it was ordered, that the said petition should be heard at the bar of the House on Feb. 5, then next.

Upon this, and without any complaint from any person whatsoever, a motion was made, that the Journals of the House of Feb. 22 and 23, then last, containing the entry of the proceedings of the House, in relation to the execution of the writ, which was ordered to be issued on Nov. 16, 1749, for the election of a citizen to serve in the present Parliament for the city of Westminster, in the room of the Right Honourable Granville Leveson Gower, esq., commonly called Lord Viscount Trentham, might be read; and the same being read accordingly, it was moved, that Peter Legh, esq., high bailiff of the city of Westminster, should attend that House immediately, in order to give the House an account of what he did in pursuance of the directions given to him by that House upon Feb. 22 and 23, then last, in relation to the execution of the precept, issued to him in pursuance of the said writ.

This motion (not being expected) was agreed to without opposition, and the high-bailiff being

then, *by accident*, in the lobby, he was immediately called in and examined; and having in the course of his examination alleged that the said election was protracted by an affected delay, he was asked by whom, and by what means; which question was objected to as improper by the Earl of Egmont, who moved for the order of the day, and upon this a long debate ensued, in which the impropriety of it was supported by Rob. Henley, esq., Sir Richard Lloyd, Dr. Lee, George Cooke, esq., John Plumptre, esq., Gen. Oglethorpe, Humphrey Sydenham, esq., and Mr. Speaker; and the propriety of the question was supported by the Lord Viscount Coke, Henry Fox, esq., Sir Wm. Yonge, and Col. Lyttleton. But at last the question for the order of the day being carried in the negative, and the question proposed being put to the high-bailiff, he named Mr. Crowle, who had been employed by Sir Geo. Vandeput, as his counsel, in carrying on the scrutiny. Then being farther examined, he complained of ill treatment offered to him by several persons upon account of his behaviour in relation to the said election and return; on which he was required to name the persons, and he named the Hon. Alex. Murray, esq., and ——— Gibson, an upholsterer, both of whom had been zealous and active in favour of Sir George Vandeput.

Upon this it was moved, that Richard Crowle, esq., should attend the House on the Thursday following, which motion was likewise strenuously opposed, but being carried in the affirmative, he

was ordered to attend accordingly, as also the said Mr. Murray and Mr. Gibson ; and the high-bailiff was ordered to attend on the same day, to make good his charge against them.

Accordingly, on Jan. 31, the said several persons attending, the high-bailiff proceeded to make good his charge against Mr. Crowle, who, in justification of himself, said, that after the high-bailiff had received the order of that House, during last sessions, to expedite the election, he took occasion from thence to hurry the scrutiny on so fast, as not to take time to do justice to his clients ; that thereupon he insisted on his taking sufficient time for that purpose ; in which light he might be said to protract the scrutiny—and he gloried in having done so, as it was a duty he owed to his clients. And the high-bailiff having likewise charged him with speaking contemptuously of the order of the House, he said, that, as to his reflecting upon the order of that House, he had too great a regard for it, and knew too well the effect of any orders issued from that chair, which was now so worthily filled, even to entertain a disrespectful thought of any order coming from thence ; and that the words he was charged with, were meant only to relate to the order's coming improperly from the unhallowed lips of the gentleman who stood by him.

Upon this a motion was made, that the high-bailiff be directed to produce his evidence upon his charge against Richard Crowle, esq. ; which was objected to, as Mr. Crowle had acknowledged the whole charge ; but, after some debate, the

motion was agreed to, and several witnesses were examined on the part of the high-bailiff, as also one on the part of Mr. Crowle; after which a motion was made, to resolve, "That it appeared
"to that House, that Richard Crowle, esq., during the late scrutiny of the poll for the city of
"Westminster, after he had full notice of the
"orders of that House, given to the high-bailiff
"of the said city, to expedite the said scrutiny,
"did wilfully and designedly protract the same;
"and when he was reminded of the said orders
"by the high-bailiff, did publicly avow and declare he had done so; and did utter disrespectful words in contempt of the authority of that
"House." This motion was made by the Marquis of Hartington, and seconded by the Lord Coke; and it was opposed by William Noel, esq., Paul Joddrel, esq., Robert Nugent, esq., and Mr. Alberman Baker: but after a long debate, the question was carried in the affirmative; whereupon it was ordered: "That Mr. Crowle should then be
"brought to the bar, and, upon his knees, reprimanded by Mr. Speaker for his said offence,
"which he accordingly was, and discharged, paying
"his fees:" and then, being very late, the consideration of the charge made by the high-bailiff was ordered to be adjourned till next morning.

Accordingly, next day, Feb. 1, the House resumed the consideration of this remarkable affair; and the high-bailiff and Mr. Murray being called in, the former stated his charge against the latter, which was on account of some threatening or affronting expressions made use of by Mr. Murray

against him, most of them after the election was over, but did not charge him with any act of violence, either before or after the election was over; and Mr. Murray having in general denied the charge, and desired to make his defence thereto by counsel, part of an act, made in the 20th year of his present Majesty's reign, intituled "*An act for allowing persons impeached of high treason, whereby any corruption of blood may be made, or for misprision of such treason, to make their full defence by counsel,*" was read; after which, Mr. Murray being asked whether his counsel were ready to proceed, he answered that he had sent for them, and that he was ready himself, but did not know whether they would be ready to proceed that day; whereupon the following orders were agreed to:

1st. "That Mr. Murray should be admitted to be heard at the bar of that House by his counsel, upon the charge made against him by the high-bailiff."

2. "That the high-bailiff should be admitted to be heard by his counsel in support of the said charge, if he thought fit."

3. "That the said Mr. Murray should be taken into custody of the sergeant at arms, attending that House, and that, when he should be in such custody, the sergeant should take such bail as should be approved by Mr. Speaker, for the said Mr. Murray's attendance upon that House, from time to time, as often as he should be required thereunto."

4. "That the further consideration of that part of

“ the high-bailiff’s charge, as related to Mr. Murray should be adjourned till the 6th instant.”

And 5. “ That the charge made by the high-bailiff against Mr. Murray, should be by him put into writing, and delivered to the clerk of the House ; and that a copy of the said charge should be delivered to the said Mr. Murray.”

Of these orders, the 3d was warmly opposed, as being different from their method of proceeding upon any breach of privilege, in all which cases the persons complained of were never taken into custody, till after they had been fully heard in their defence, and as being a prejudging of the cause before they had examined it, or knew any thing of it ; and that, in this case, such a proceeding would be the more extraordinary, as the offence alleged consisted solely in words, of which no complaint or information had been made for above eight months after the offence had been committed, and even then, not till an accusation had been lodged against the informant, upon the trial of which accusation, the persons informed against might very probably be the most material witnesses ; whereas, in one of the highest offences which can be committed by words, which is that of denying the king’s right to the crown, or denying the Trinity, the information must be brought in three or four days after the words spoken, the words must be proved to have been spoken maliciously, directly, and advisedly, and the prosecution must be in three months after the information. However, as the the law of parliament

was different from the common or statute law, and it was thought necessary to vindicate the authority thereof, the question was carried by a great majority, and Mr. Murray was accordingly taken into custody, and immediately gave bail for his appearance.

The high-bailiff then stated his charge against the said Mr. Gibson, containing an account of some words spoken by him during the election, reflecting upon the proceedings of that House, and of the legislature ; and Mr. Gibson having denied the same, several witnesses were examined on both sides, and several members gave an account of what they knew of the matter ; whereupon it was resolved, That it appeared to that House, that the said Mr. John Gibson was guilty of an high contempt of the authority and privileges of that House, by reflecting on the proceedings of that House, and of the legislature ; in consequence of which resolution, it was ordered that he should, for his said offence, be committed prisoner to his majesty's goal of Newgate, and that Mr. Speaker should issue his warrant accordingly ; whereupon he was that very night sent prisoner to Newgate. And on Monday, Feb. 4, Mr. Speaker accordingly acquainted the House, of his having been informed by the sergeant at arms that he had taken into his custody the Hon. Alex. Murray, esq., and when in his custody had taken bail for his attendance upon the House, from time to time, as often as he should be required thereunto, which bail he, the speaker, had approved of ; and there-

upon it was ordered, that the said Mr. Murray should attend the House on Wednesday morning then next.

Feb. 4th. Order for hearing the merits of the Westminster election, which stood for next day, was put off to the Thursday following, so that the House, it seems, was resolved to vindicate their own privileges, before proceeding to hear that election; and on the Wednesday following, the House resumed the consideration of Mr. Murray's affair, and the high bailiff and counsel for Mr. Murray were called in (the former thinking he had no occasion for any counsel) and several witnesses being examined on both sides, and parties and counsel withdrawn, it was moved to resolve, That it appeared to that House, that the Hon. Alex. Murray, esq., on May 15 last, being the day of the return of a member to serve in Parliament for the city of Westminster, attended by a mob, did, before the return was made, come to the house of Mr. Baldwin, the deputy high bailiff of the said city, and then and there declared, in a menacing and insulting manner, that he and a thousand more had sworn, that the high bailiff should make his return in the middle of Covent-garden, and not in the portico; that he was a fool he had not ordered the iron rails to be cut down the night before; for that he had advised with counsel, that if he had done it and had not taken the rails away, it would have been only a trespass; and that for 100 or 150*l.* they might have been made good again; and that had it not been to humour some faint hearted fellows, it would have been done, or

words to that effect ; and that the said Alexander Murray, immediately after the return was made, appeared in Covent-garden church-yard, while the returning officer was in the vestry, near the place where the return was made, at the head of a mob, who appeared to be on the part of Sir Geo. Vandeput, and did then utter words exciting and inflaming the said multitude to assault and murder the returning officer ; and that afterwards, as the returning officer was going away, the said Alex. Murray persevering in his wicked purposes, did, at the head of the said mob, again incite them to acts of violence, saying, with imprecations, “ Will “ nobody knock the Dog down? will nobody “ kill the Dog ! ” or words to that effect.

After a long debate, this motion was upon a division agreed to by 152 to 69. Then a motion was made, that the said Alex Murray should, for his said dangerous and seditious practices, in violation and contempt of the authority and privileges of that House, and of the freedom of elections, be committed close prisoner to his majesty’s goal of Newgate ; whereupon the journal of the House of Feb. 23, 1749, in relation to the proceedings of the House for the punishment of William Myddleton, esq., was read ; and the motion after a new debate agreed to ; after which it was, after another debate, resolved, That he should then be brought to the bar of that House to receive his sentence, there upon his knees. He was accordingly brought to the bar, and directed by the speaker to kneel ; but as he considered that he should not be discharged from Newgate

during the session without petitioning, and acknowledging an offence which he did not think himself guilty of, and which he was resolved he never could do, he therefore refused to be upon his knees, especially as he thought that his falling voluntarily upon his knees, would be an acknowledgment of his being guilty.

Upon this his refusal he was taken from the bar, and it was resolved, That his having in a most insolent and audacious manner, at the bar of that House, absolutely refused to be upon his knees, as required by their former resolution, was a high and most dangerous contempt of the authority and privilege of that House; in consequence of which it was ordered, that he should be committed close prisoner to Newgate, in order to his forthcoming, to abide such orders as should be made by that House, in relation to his said contempt; and that while there, he should not be allowed the use of pen, ink, or paper, nor any person admitted to have access to him, without leave of the House. A committee was then appointed to consider what methods might be proper to be taken by the House, in relation to the said contempt; who were to withdraw immediately into the speaker's chamber, and empowered to send for persons, papers and records, and to sit, notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

It being now half an hour past one o'clock on Thursday morning, the House adjourned till Friday morning, by which the order for hearing the Westminster election was dropped; and Mr. Murray was, in an hour or two after, carried to Newgate.

Feb. 8. Upon a motion it was ordered, that Lord Elibank should have leave to resort to his brother, the Hon. Alex. Murray, esq., then a prisoner in Newgate, committed by an order of that House, and at the same time a person from the keeper of Newgate having informed the House, that Mr. Murray was ill, and desired that Dr. Lamond a physician, and Mr. Cooke an apothecary might have leave to resort to him, it was ordered accordingly. After which, upon a motion, the order for hearing the Westminster election was revived, and it was ordered to be heard on the 12th; but on that day the petitioners, upon motion, had leave to withdraw their petitions; and the order for hearing the election was discharged, which put an end to this remarkable contest.

Feb. 13. Upon motion it was ordered, that the Hon. Mrs. Helen Murray should have leave to resort to her brother Mr. Murray, then a prisoner in Newgate; and that a nurse and another servant should be permitted to be with him; and next day Mr. John Gibson got his petition presented to the House, expressing his sorrow for having incurred the displeasure of the House, giving the strongest and most solemn assurances of his never giving the least offence for the future, and praying to be discharged from his confinement; whereupon it was ordered, that he should be brought to the bar the next morning, in order to his being discharged, and that Mr. Speaker should issue his warrants accordingly. Next day he was brought to the bar, where, upon his knees, he received a reprimand from Mr. Speaker; and was ordered

to be discharged out of custody, paying his fees.

Feb. 18. Sir William Yonge reported from the said committee, appointed to consider and report to the House what methods might be proper to be taken by the House in relation to the said Mr. Murray, and the said report being read, it appeared from thence, that no person had ever refused to be upon his knees when directed by that House, except during the usurpation which began in the reign of King Charles the First, and that even then close imprisonment was the only punishment inflicted. Therefore the House did not thereupon come to any new resolution, but only ordered, that the said Dr. Lamond, and Mr. Cooke the apothecary, should attend the House on that day se'nnight. In the mean time, on Friday the 22d the House being informed, that Mr. Murray was still so very bad in Newgate, that it was necessary for his being blooded, and that one Mr. Goulding had many years been his apothecary and surgeon, and consequently best acquainted with his constitution, therefore it was moved and ordered that the said Mr. Goulding should be admitted to resort to him; and on the 25th Dr. Lamond, and Mr. Cooke the apothecary attending, according to order, the former was called in, and after a very strict examination, as to the present state of Mr. Murray's health, though the doctor affirmed that it was still very bad, it was resolved that no person allowed by that House to resort to Mr. Murray, should have, without fresh leave of the House, any further access to him, except Dr. Lamond,

and Mr. Cooke, and except the nurse who had been allowed to be with him ; so that from henceforth he was deprived of the company of his brother and sister, and the attendance of his own apothecary and servant.

From this time, until April 2, nothing passed in relation to Mr. Murray ; but on that day the House being informed, that the said Dr. Lamond was attending at the door and was desirous of giving the House some information relating to him, he was called in, and acquainted the House, that he had that day attended Mr. Murray, that he apprehended him to have the goal distemper coming upon him, and that he left him so extremely ill, that if he was not immediately removed from the place of his then present confinement, there would be no possibility of saving him. Upon this it was ordered, that the said Mr. Murray should be discharged from his confinement in Newgate, and delivered over into the custody of the sergeant at arms, in order to give satisfaction to that House from time to time in relation to the state of his health ; and that Mr. Speaker should issue his warrant accordingly. It was also ordered, that no other person should be admitted to resort to him, while in custody, except such other person or persons as Mr. Speaker should, from time to time, think fit to authorize by warrant so to do, upon proper application to be made to him for that purpose ; and that Mr. Speaker should be empowered to issue his warrants accordingly ; and, thirdly, it was ordered, that Mr. Murray, while in such custody, should not be allowed the use of

pen, ink, or paper, otherwise than as Mr. Speaker should, from time to time, think fit by his warrant to authorise ; and that Mr. Speaker should be empowered to issue his warrants accordingly.

Next day Mr. Speaker informed the House, that the deputy of the sergeant at arms had something to communicate to the House, relating to the execution of the orders made the day before, for removing Mr. Murray from Newgate, into the custody of the sergeant at arms ; and the deputy being called in, he acquainted the House, that he did the evening before communicate to the keeper of Newgate, Mr. Speaker's warrant for removing the said Mr. Murray ; whereupon being admitted he did acquaint Mr. Murray with the orders of the House for his removal, but that his physician Dr. Lamond, being present, and giving it as his opinion, that it might be very improper to remove Mr. Murray that night, and that it might be more advisable to defer such removal till next morning, he the said deputy acquiesced therein, and accordingly did that morning, together with Dr. Lamond, again attend Mr. Murray, and told him that he was ready to execute the said warrant, but that Mr. Murray then said, that he thought such removal would be of little or no service to him, and that as the application to the House was without his knowledge, he chose, if it could be permitted, to remain where he was ; and that he also requested him, the said deputy, to inform the House, that he was extremely thankful for the favour intended him ; and that the said Dr. Lamond likewise thought that as his fever had left him sooner than

he apprehended, it was the best way not to remove him, as nothing but air and exercise could be of real service to him.

And the said deputy being farther examined, acquainted the House, that he found, from his conversation with Mr. Murray, that he had been informed of the steps which had been taken for the said application to the House, and that he expressed great uneasiness thereupon, and used some words of resentment towards one of his relations, on account of such application being made, saying, that it was a mean thing in him to apply to the House without his the said Mr. Murray's consent.

The minutes of the information given by Dr. Lamond the preceding day, and his examination consequent thereupon, were then read; and as Dr. Lamond was attending at the door, he was called in, and being examined, he gave the House an account in what condition he found Mr. Murray the night before, with his reasons for thinking it improper to have him removed at that time; and also acquainted the House, that Mr. Murray did not desire to be removed out of Newgate, unless he could have the benefit of the air and exercise, and was dissatisfied with the application which had been made to that House; and that he the said doctor did not then perceive any symptoms of Mr. Murray's having the goal distemper, but thought him much better than he was the preceding day, although far from being well.

Thus we may see, that as ill as Mr. Murray was, and as necessary as air and exercise was for

restoring him to health, he would not deign to ask the favour of being admitted to bail, or so much as that of being released from Newgate. However as the forcing him from Newgate into the custody of the sergeant at arms might have been attended with scandalous suggestions, in case he had died while in that custody, the House very wisely revoked their orders for his removal, and ordered, that he should remain in the same custody he was in, under the same orders that were subsisting when the revoked orders were made; and thus he remained till the end of the session, when he was of course discharged, as the prorogation put an end to that authority by which he stood committed.

A petition was presented to the House of Commons in the year 1774, by Lord Mahon, now Earl Stanhope, and Lord Mountnorres against the return of Earl Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, and the Earl of Lincoln, in which it was stated, that divers peers and lords of Parliament publicly canvassed, and otherwise unduly interfered in the election, contrary to several express resolutions of the House, and that they allowed to the electors, and several persons who had, or claimed a right to vote, money, meat, drink, entertainment, or provision, and that by those, and other undue means, a majority was procured.

A letter was proved to have been sent from the Earl of Exeter's *steward* in the country, to his lordship's *porter* in town, directing him to ask certain votes for the sitting members.

It was also proved, that the Duke of Northum-

berland *had called* on several of the lower class of voters.

The committee determined that the sitting members were duly elected.

Peckwell,
v. i. Introd.

May 25, 1784. The petition of the Right Hon. Charles James Fox complained of a return made by the high bailiff of Westminster, in which he stated, that there were three candidates at the election; that he took the poll for six hours daily, from the first of April to the seventeenth of May; that at the final close of the poll the numbers stood thus—

For Lord Hood.....6694

Right Hon. C. J. Fox 6233

Sir Cecil Wray.....5998

That Sir Cecil Wray demanded a scrutiny, which was granted, and that the high bailiff was proceeding in the same with all possible dispatch, and that he humbly conceived that he could not make any other and further return. This petition prayed the House to order the high bailiff to execute an indenture, returning the petitioner. The House determined that the said petition did not come within the description of a petition complaining of an undue election, or return of a member to serve in Parliament, and ordered it to be withdrawn.

Ibid.

This petition was presented a second time, and counsel were thereon held at the bar of the House; March 3, 1785, it was resolved, "That it appearing to this House that Thomas Corbett, esq., high bailiff of the city of Westminster, having received a precept from the sheriff of Middlesex for

electing two citizens to serve in Parliament for the said city, had taken and finally closed the poll on the seventeenth day of May last, being the day next before the day of the return of the said writ, he be now directed forthwith to make return of his precept of members chosen in pursuance thereof." On the fourth of March the high bailiff made a return of Lord Hood and Mr. Fox, according to the numbers standing on the poll, as reduced by the scrutiny on the third of March, 1785, which return was ordered by the House to be annexed to the writ.

In 1788, Samuel Lord Hood petitioned against the election of Lord John Townshend. The committee sat for several months; rejected the claim of voting of such inhabitants of Westminster as resided in the bounds of the duchy of Lancaster, and came to several other resolutions concerning the voters of the said city; but the present session of Parliament being by them deemed too short to determine upon all the objected votes in the different parishes, the committee recommended it to Lord Hood to withdraw his petition. This his lordship at first declined, but afterwards acquiescing, the chairman reported to the House, July 6, 1789, that the sitting member was duly elected, and that Lord Hood's petition was not frivolous or vexatious.

In determining the above question, the committee resolved, that the inhabitants of the liberty of St. Martin's-le-Grand, which is in the centre of the city of London, *had a right to vote*, and that the inhabitants of the liberty of the Savoy, *alias*

St. John the Baptist, which is in the centre of the city of Westminster, *had not a right to vote* in the election of members to serve in Parliament for the said city.

By this resolution, near three hundred electors were disfranchised. An appeal against this decision was, however, made by certain electors within the year, as the act of the 28th of Geo. III. chap. 52, directs, and on the 11th of May, 1789, a final determination was made, that this district had a right to vote.

In 1790, John Horne Tooke, esq., petitioned. Feb. 4, 1791. The chairman reported to the House, that the sitting members, (the Right Hon. Charles James Fox, and Samuel Lord Hood) were duly elected, and that the petition of John Horne Tooke, esq., *was frivolous and vexatious*.

In 1806, James Paul, esq., petitioned against the election of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, esq., but the Parliament was dissolved before the petition could be brought to trial.

CORRUPTION AND TREASURY INTERFERENCE.

A complaint having been made to the House of Commons by Mr. Thompson, member for Heyden, and seconded by Mr. Lambton, member for Durham, against George Rose, esq., a member of that House, and secretary to the treasury, for improper interference in the election of 1788, when there was a contest between Lord John Townshend and Lord Hood, and a motion being made, that a committee be appointed to take the same into consideration, it passed in the negative, by a ma-

jority of nearly three to one; the numbers for the question being 84, against it 231.

A meeting of the electors of Westminster was convened, in consequence of the above decision, when the following resolutions were adopted:

March 20, 1792.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

At a numerous and respectable meeting of the independent electors of the city and liberty of Westminster, held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, this day,

HARRY HOUSE, esq. in the Chair,

The following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:

I. That it appears to this meeting that a motion was made on Tuesday the 13th of March, 1792, in the House of Commons, for “An enquiry into all abuses committed by persons in office at the election of a member to serve in Parliament for the city of Westminster, in the month of July, 1788, as far as the same related to penalties incurred under the excise law and lottery act;” which motion was rejected.

II. That it appears to this meeting, that George Smith, a publican in Westminster, was in the year 1788 convicted, on the prosecution of the attorney-general, in the sum of fifty pounds, for brewing beer for sale without a licence, and that the

prosecution was officially conducted by John Vivian, esq., solicitor to the board of excise.

III. That in the month of October, 1788, the said George Smith was employed by George Rose, esq., secretary to the treasury, as an emissary and agent in favour of Lord Hood, one of the lords of the admiralty, at that time prosecuting a petition in Parliament against Lord John Townshend, the successful candidate at the election for Westminster in 1788; and that the said petition was tried before a committee of the House of Commons, in the months of April, May, and June, 1789.

IV. That in the month of January, 1789, Geo. Smith applied to the said George Rose, esq., stating the particular circumstances of his case in a petition, and praying to have the penalty he had incurred, remitted; That the said George Rose, esq., did forward the said petition to the chairman of the board of excise, and did afterwards send a letter to the secretary, desiring as a favour, that all proceedings on Smith's penalty might be stopped, till the chairman, who was at that time absent, returned to town.

V. That on the 8th of April, 1789, the said George Rose, esq. did write to the said George Smith, in these words; "Mr. Rose desires Mr. Smith will call on him in Old Palace-yard, to-morrow morning at eight o'clock, as Mr. Vivian will then be there."

VI. That it appears to this meeting, that the secretary of the treasury, in thus procuring a secret interview early in the morning, at his own House,

between the solicitor to the board of excise, and the convicted defendant, acted in a manner highly suspicious.

VII. That from the nature of the transaction, it is difficult to know what passed at such a clandestine meeting, but it appears by a receipt from the excise office, signed "John Vivian," that no part of the penalty incurred by the said George Smith was levied before the 14th of May, 1790, being a respite of above thirteen months, from the time of the private interview at Mr. Rose's house.

VIII. That during the first part of these thirteen months, the said George Smith was extremely useful to the treasury in forwarding the interests of Lord Hood, the unsuccessful candidate, and during the latter part of the period extremely troublesome to the treasury, in demanding to be paid for his services.—That the excise penalty appears to have slept, while he was an election agent, and only became active, when he shewed himself in the shape of an unsatisfied creditor.

IX. That the said George Smith, being unable to procure from the secretary of the treasury payment of his bill for his said election services, as his agent, brought an action against him to recover the amount.

X. That this action was tried in the month of July, 1791, before the lord chief justice of the court of King's Bench, by a special jury, who, by giving a verdict for the whole demand of the plaintiff, did thereby declare themselves satisfied that Smith had performed election services against Lord John Townshend, at the request of the secre-

tary of the treasury. That the said action was defended by the solicitors to the treasury.

XI. That in the course of the trial of this action, the following material evidence was given upon oath by the solicitor for Lord Hood, viz:—
“ That Mr. Rose had, while the petition against
“ Lord John Townshend was depending, assured
“ him he might trust Smith, because there was a
“ prosecution going on against him in the excise;
“ and as a mark of the trust and confidence they
“ had in him, they had interfered and stepped in
“ to serve him.”

XII. That this evidence was uncontroverted upon the trial, and has since been circulated in a printed statement for above eight months without refutation.

XIII. That the above mentioned proceedings do appear to this meeting to warrant an opinion, that Mr. Rose, by using that influence with the board of excise and its solicitor, which his situation as secretary to the treasury afforded him, has endeavoured, as far as in him lay, to apply the penalties provided by act of parliament for the punishment of frauds upon the revenue, to the corrupt purpose of establishing an undue influence in the election of a member of Parliament.

XIV. That this meeting, considering the great and increasing extension of the excise laws, and the number of individuals subject to their operation, cannot but entertain the most alarming apprehensions of danger to the freedom of election, should the influence, which administration must necessarily have in the execution of those laws,

be made use of for the purpose of corrupting or intimidating the minds of the electors of this kingdom.

XV. That John Hoskins having been arrested on the affidavit of the solicitor of the lottery, and then being a prisoner in the King's Bench prison, for penalties to the amount of 700*l.* incurred under the lottery act, did offer to the said solicitor, who at the time did also act as agent to Lord Hood, to procure sixty votes for the said Lord Hood, in consideration of his release from prison.

XVI. That the solicitor of the lottery declined complying with the said proposition until he had consulted higher authority, and that, after a short interval of time, the proposal was accepted; and on Hoskins having procured sixty persons to vote for Lord Hood, he was actually discharged from prison, on bail notoriously insufficient.

XVII. That the expense attending the putting in and justifying such bail, so notoriously insufficient, was in part defrayed by Lord Hood, a candidate at the said election, and one of the lords of the admiralty.

XVIII. That there is reason to believe, that this transaction would have been traced to persons of higher authority, and that other instances of equal enormity on the part of the servants of the crown in the said election, would have been proved, had an enquiry been granted.

XIX. That the electors of Westminster, taking into their consideration the above circumstances, anxious to maintain the freedom of election thus daringly invaded, to prevent a misap-

plication of the public money, and to preserve from abuse powers which, even in the purest exercise of them, must be considered as dangerous, but which, if misapplied, would become absolutely destructive to the liberties of the people, do consider a parliamentary enquiry as necessary to secure the constituent body of this kingdom in the free enjoyment of their constitutional privileges, and to preserve the independence of the House of Commons.

XX. Resolved: That a petition be presented to the House of Commons, praying them to take the above matter into their most serious consideration, and to institute a sincere and solemn inquiry, as to the best means of correcting the abuses that have been complained of.

XXI. That a committee be appointed to draw up a petition according to the tenor of the above resolutions; and that copies of the same be left for signature at the Crown and Anchor, the Shakespeare, St. Alban's, and King's Arms Taverns, and such other places as the committee may appoint.

Resolved: That the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman, for his able and independent conduct this day.

HARRY HOUSE, *Chairman.*

At the above meeting Mr. Francis, member for Bletchingley, after lamenting the audacity with which corruption was now practised, and the indifference with which it was suffered to go unpunished, said, he had an opportunity as a member of Parliament since the year 1784, to have been a

constant observer of the conduct of the present ministers of the crown, almost from their outset; and he could take upon himself to say, that not one session had passed without one or more acts having passed, openly or insidiously attacking the rights of the people of this country—and he was sorry to be obliged to say, that what had been impudently and violently attempted by the minister, had been stupidly and blindly acquiesced in by the country. He was no flatterer. He took upon him to speak from personal observation, and he repeated—the ministers had, from year to year, gone forward in their attacks on the liberties of the people with daring impudence—the people had submitted to these progressive abridgments with blind stupidity. Acts have been tacitly submitted to, which, thirty years ago, would have exposed any minister to contemptuous ridicule, even for suggesting.—He would have been laughed at as a fool, for thinking it possible that such things could be borne. Revenue was made the pretext for all these harsh, grinding oppressions; and these horrible summary laws were defended by saying, that our necessities demanded their utmost and most rigorous stretch—an argument that would gain strength as it went on, and as the miserable system of cabinets involved us as heretofore in wars and armaments, and expenses. In every way they were grievous.—First, as checks on the industry—the skill—the improvements in our manufactures—as burthens from their own enormous amount—as vexatious from the uncontrollable power which they gave to the officers

who collect, and to the boards who summarily convict. But, as if all these were not sufficient—as if it were not enough, by the endless augmentation of these severe laws and penalties, to have brought every description of men in the kingdom, one way or other, under their rigour, so that even (what on the comparison was a very small, though it was an irksome thing) no man could remove a single dozen of wine from his house in town to his house in the country without licences. Not content with all this, and with depriving the subject of his trial by jury, it was now proved, that government had other purposes to which these oppressive laws were applied, than what they dared to avow. They were not merely for revenue—they were made the instruments of the worst corruption, and of the basest debauchery,—they were made to intimidate some—to favour others—and to assist a plan for corrupting the whole mass of the constituent and representative bodies. When they came to look at these things—when they saw that such things were practised, not only with impunity, but with boast—when ministers, trusting to the majority which these very practices gave them, disdained even to give a reason, and to answer inquiries that were demanded; there was no remedy but in themselves. It were in vain that a few independent places remained firm to their true interests, and elected persons who had no private interests; in vain even was the incomparable talents and the incorruptible virtue of Mr. Fox himself against the weight of that steady, determined host, whom the minister

had bound to his service by personal gratifications. Argument, reason, truth—all were vain against this overbearing majority; and therefore, if the people did not rouse from the fatal lethargy that seemed to possess them, he saw no end to the encroachments that were daily making on our dearest rights.—The few men in the House of Commons, who had no personal interests to stand in the way of their public duty, would be tired out, or would be melted away by the course of time; and it was not to be imagined that men would enter into a conflict in which the people themselves took no part, and about which they were so careless. He thought, however, that this torpor was to be accounted for, only by the people's not being generally acquainted with the corruptions that had been practised. He thought so, because he would fairly say, that if, in his mind, the country at large knew the late practices as well as the people of Westminster, where they had been chiefly transacted, he should despair of remedy, and should indeed think them not worth preserving.—A people that could tamely see such use made of these abominable laws, must be lost to every feeling of freemen: but he thought it likely that they were ignorant, and therefore he was of opinion that the electors of Westminster should call on their fellow electors, in every corner of the kingdom, should explain to them the circumstances of the late application to the House of Commons—and the manner in which the majority of the minister had stepped in to prevent all inquiry from being made. They should state

these particulars of what for the moment was their case, but what to-morrow might be their own. —And as a most direct attack was made through their sides on the privilege of election, they should determine on some broad, legal, constitutional, remedy for the evil—a reform in the representation was the only effectual one ; and to accomplish this object they should form associations throughout the whole kingdom—they should enlighten one another by means of these associations, and by united petitions—by instructions to their representatives, force them to redress these evils—he said force them, because, against the just representations of an united country, no man would dare to stand out. He recommended this course, for there was no other—He was sure that a reform of the representation would never come from within. The only one instance in which, on a public question, he had voted against the great and shining man whom the electors of Westminster had, so much to their honour, elected so often as their representative, was on this very question of a reform. He was proud, and ready, to acknowledge his error and his fault ; when this question came on, he owned that he was induced, from the reasoning and persuasion of some particular friends, to vote against the proposition of Mr. Fox. Every day's experience had since convinced him of his error. He had seen such gross infringements on constitutional principles made every year with more and more audacity, that he was convinced nothing but a fundamental reform would relieve the people ; and he therefore

pledged himself that he should support whatever motion for a reform might be made by Mr. Fox in future, convinced, as he was, that none could be *so bad* as the present system.

A picture of the present state of corruption in this country, so ably drawn, by a gentleman so deservedly respectable, and whose situation enables him to be in the fullest possession of the facts to which he speaks, supersedes the necessity of animadversion from us, who have neither the ability nor opportunity that comes within his compass, of making such accurate and discriminating observations.

CORPORATION.

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

May 11, 1789. The right of election for the city and liberty of Westminster is in the inhabitant Householders, paying scot and lot, within the united parishes of St. Margaret and St. John ; and the several parishes of St. Paul, Covent Garden ; St. Ann ; St. James ; St. George, Hanover-square ; in the liberty of St. Martin-le-Grand, in the county of Middlesex ; and in so much of the parishes of St. Martin in the Fields, St. Clement Danes, and St. Mary-le-Strand, as are not within any of the four wards of the liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster.

March 19, 1795. The right of election for the city and liberty of Westminster is in the inhabitant Householders, paying scot and lot, of the united

parishes of St. Margaret and St. John ; and of the several parishes of St. Paul, Covent Garden ; St. Ann ; St. James ; St. George, Hanover-square ; St. Martin in the Fields ; St. Clement Danes ; and St. Mary-le-Strand, (*including so much and such parts of the said parishes of St. Martin in the Fields and St. Mary-le-Strand, as are within the liberties, district, limits, or jurisdiction of the Duchy of Lancaster,*) and of the liberty or districts of St. Martin-le-Grand, in the county of Middlesex, and of the precinct of the Savoy.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 17,000.

RETURNING OFFICER—the High-Bailiff.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city was formerly considered as a court borough, from being the seat of royalty, and the residence of administration, and from having so many of the offices of government held within its limits. Her representatives were generally selected from the sons of the nobility who were highest in court favor, or from ministerial admirals whose naval popularity would render them more acceptable to the people.

As an evidence, however, that the people, wherever they have the exercise of that power which nature and a free constitution gives, will exercise it in defiance of controul, the electors of Westminster, upon a vacancy which happened in 1769, by the late Lord Sandys succeeding to the peerage, feeling a just resentment at the unconstitutional measures adopted in respect to the Middlesex election, and which were reprobated by the

whole kingdom, they returned the late Sir Robert Bernard to Parliament, who had distinguished himself in support of the rights of the freeholders of Middlesex, against all the influence and intrigue of the administration of that day.

At the following election, in 1774, Lord Viscount Mahon, now Earl Stanhope, and Lord Viscount Mountmorres, were candidates on the independent interest of this city, and Earl Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, in conjunction with the Earl of Lincoln, son of the Duke of Newcastle, were supported by the united interest of the aristocracy and administration; the two latter succeeded against the former by a majority of nearly two to one.

From this period, to the general election of 1780, the city of Westminster was ranked, in the public opinion, with the most obsequious boroughs. The Duke of Newcastle and the Duke of Northumberland being considered as its political rulers, and so completely did their ascendancy appear to be established, that upon the accession of Earl Percy to the peerage, on the death of his mother, their nomination of Lord Malden, son of the Earl of Essex, was submitted to with scarcely the shew of an opposition, although Sir Watkin Lewes was proposed by several independent electors, who virtuously offered to defray the legal and necessary expenses of a poll.

At the general election in 1780, the city of Westminster effectually burst the chains of aristocratical influence. The inhabitants having formed an association for the purpose of effecting

a parliamentary reform, correcting the expenditure of the public revenue, and putting an end to the ruinous American war; and that association having appointed a committee, composed of gentlemen of the first ability, patriotism, and integrity, the emancipation of this populous city was soon effected by their united exertions.

The ministry, feeling the vigorous arm of associated independence too powerful for the feeble resistance of aristocracy, contented themselves with attempting to carry *one member*, in the person of Lord Lincoln, uniting with him the popularity of Sir George (afterwards Lord) Rodney, who was proposed by the association, in conjunction with their illustrious chairman, the Right Honourable Charles James Fox.

The event, however, demonstrated that this partial effort was only the expiring struggle of undue influence, for, after a poll of one-and-twenty days, Mr. Fox was elected by a majority of six hundred and twenty-six votes, in conjunction with Sir George Rodney, against whom there was no opposition.

In 1782, Sir George Rodney vacated his seat by accepting a peerage, when Sir Cecil Wray, bart., was invited by the committee of the association to become a candidate, and was unanimously approved and elected by the constituent body.

The unpopular coalition which took place the ensuing year, and which divided the people from the Parliament, the supporters of liberty from the cause itself, and the advocates of public men from one another, created a division between the great

assertor of this city's independence, and his virtuous colleague Sir Cecil Wray ; men whose integrity was inviolable, whose patriotism was unshaken, and in whom the genuine principles of freedom were congenial.

The aristocracy did not fail to improve this mischievous opportunity, but in alliance with the administration of the moment, took the advantage of popular resentment and disunion, to introduce Lord Hood to the representation at the ensuing general election in 1784. His lordship, however, vacating his seat in 1788, on being appointed one of the lords of the admiralty, the independence of the city again manifested itself in the rejection of a placeman, and in the choice of Lord John Townshend, by a majority equal to that which was obtained by Mr. Fox on his first election.

This victory was, however, said to be obtained at the expense of fifty thousand pounds, a tax so enormous and severe upon the freedom of election, as to obliterate even the name, unless the virtue and good sense of the nation shall teach them to despise the gross arts that are practised upon the most disgraceful of the human passions, to intoxicate them into a surrender of their birth-right for a mess of pottage, or to make their own imbecility the instrument of their degradation.

We trust, however, the period is not very distant, when a perfect system of representation shall be established, when the whole nation shall be exhibited at the same hour employed in exercising the important right of electing their representatives, without the possibility of incurring expense. When each individual shall deposit his

suffrage in the parish where he resides, instead of travelling at the expense of a candidate, from London to Berwick, or from Yorkshire to Cornwall, as is at present the practice; and when such regulations shall prevent the worst abuses of the best institutions that can impart happiness to a people.

A disgraceful compromise, to return a member of each party was the consequence of these unlimited expenses, in which the dignity of the city, its independence, and right to a perfect representation, were sacrificed; for whatever public measure has the sanction of one member must be opposed by the other; and the most populous city in the empire was, of course, deprived of its voice in all the national concerns.

Mr. Horne Tooke made a formidable opposition to this unconstitutional coalition in 1790, and we lament, with every friend to liberty, it was not a successful one. The decided and determined detestation of coalitions to destroy the freedom of election, which was shewn by the freemen of Liverpool, upon the union of Lord Penryhn and Mr. Bamber Gascoigne, if once generally adopted, would effectually check this conspiracy of parties, and restore the electors to the legal and constitutional exercise of their franchise.

At the general election in 1796, Mr. Graham, an auctioneer, became a candidate in opposition to this accommodating compromise between administration and opposition, and polled such a respectable number of votes as to effectually defeat the combination, by shewing that the city of Westminster would no longer endure to be dictated to

even by the two great parties who at that time united all the wealth and influence of the country.

Upon the death of the Right Hon. Charles James Fox, in 1806, Earl Percy was unanimously elected for the remainder of that Parliament; but at the dissolution which followed in the same year, Sir Samuel Hood, the Right Hon. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and James Paul, esq., were candidates. The contest lasted for fifteen days with doubtful success, but at last terminated in favour of the two former. Mr. Paul petitioned against the return, but the Parliament did not exist longer than six months, consequently his petition was not brought to an issue.

On the dissolution of what is called the short Parliament, on the 27th of May, 1807, the Right Hon. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Mr. Elliot, the brewer, Mr. Paul, and Lord Cochrane, were candidates: after the poll had commenced, Sir Francis Burdett, who was at that time confined to his bed by a dangerous wound he had received in a duel with Mr. Paul, was put in nomination without his knowledge, as the state of his disorder would not admit of any person except his medical attendants to see him. He was soon at the head of the poll, and continued so throughout the election, at the close of which, after fifteen days, the numbers stood as follow :

Sir Francis Burdett	5,134
Lord Cochrane	3,708
Right Hon. R. B. Sheridan	..2,615
Mr. Elliot	2,137
Mr. Paul	 269

Upon which Sir Francis Burdett and Lord Cochrane were declared duly elected. The former, without expense, and without soliciting a single vote. The city of Westminster thus setting the glorious example to the whole country of sending a member independently to Parliament.

At the general election in 1812, these gentlemen were again returned without solicitation or expense, affording, we lament to say, the only instance we have heard of in the present reign of such a constitutional principle prevailing.

Lord Cochrane was expelled the House in 1814, upon the conviction which took place on the Stock Exchange prosecution, but his constituents manifested their opinion of his innocence by unanimously re-electing him. He took the oaths and his seat at his liberation from the King's Bench prison, on the 4th of July, 1815; and it is remarkable, that, on that day, the bill for granting an additional provision to the Duke of Cumberland, in consequence of his marriage with the Duchess of Salm, in every stage of which its supporters had found themselves in decreased majorities, was thrown out by a majority of *one*!

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTHSHIRE is a county of England, bounded on the north-west by Brecknockshire, on the north-east by Herefordshire, on the east by Gloucestershire, on the south by the Severn, and on the west by Glamorganshire. It is about 24 miles long and 20 broad, containing 340,000 acres of land, having about 100,000 acres arable, 215,000 acres in pasturage, and about 20,000 acres uncultivated, including woodlands. It is divided into six hundreds, viz. Abergavenny, Caldicot, Ragland, Skenfreth, Usk, and Wentlodge, containing one borough, Monmouth; six market-towns, viz. Abergavenny, Caerleon, Chepstow, Newport, Pontypool, and Usk, with 127 parishes, 8,948 houses, inhabited by 45,582 persons, viz. 22,173 males, and 23,409 females, of whom 5,540 were employed in trade and manufacture, and 12,871 in agriculture. The amount of money raised under the poor's rate in 1803 was 25,048*l.*, being at the rate of 7*s.* 11½*d.* in the pound. The total amount of property returned in 1806, as liable to the income-tax, was 374,057*l.* The average scale of mortality for 10 years appears to have been as 1 to 58 of the existing population. Monmouthshire sends three members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, and one for the borough of Monmouth; it lies in the diocese of Llandaff, and province of Canterbury. This was formerly reckoned one of the Welsh counties; and from the names of its towns

and villages, its mountainous appearance, and its situation beyond the river Wye, which seems to be a natural boundary between England and Wales, it certainly partakes of the character of the latter country. Its principal rivers are the Usk, the Wye, and the Mynnow. The principal manufacture of the county is flannels. The air in general is very temperate and healthy, and the soil tolerably fruitful. The language used by the lower class is Welsh, but the English is daily growing more familiar. At the Roman invasion it was part of the territory of the Silures, and was then considered as a part of Wales, and by the natives called *Gwent*, until the reign of Charles II., when it was taken into the Oxford circuit, and deemed a county of England.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has sent members to Parliament from the 27th of Henry VIII. to the present time.

PETITIONS, &c. June 21, 1625. Mr. Drake presented a petition concerning Sir James Perrot.

July 7. A petition of Sir James Perrot, complaining that the sheriff who made the return is not a sheriff, as his commission determined upon the death of the late king, and was not renewed by the present king.

No report appears.

Nov. 12, 1667. A petition of James Herbert, esq., complaining of an undue return of a knight of the shire to serve for this county.

Resolved, Feb. 14, 1668, "That Sir Trevor Williams is duly elected a knight of the shire."

Oct. 23, 1702. The House taking notice that there are no returns for this county,

Resolved: "That the sheriff of this county, for not having made a return of his writ, and of the members elected in virtue thereof, is guilty of a breach of the privilege of this House; and do adjudge the said sheriff to be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Nov. 18. The said sheriff, William Lewis, esq., petitioned the House, acknowledging the offence, begging pardon of the House, and praying his discharge out of custody.

— 19. He was brought to the bar, when he acquainted the House, that he had executed and signed the return of the said writ, and soon after delivered it out of his own hands, to be carried to the clerk of the crown.

Ordered: "That the said Mr. Lewis be discharged out of custody on paying his fees."

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of John Morgan, sen., against the undue return of Sir Hopton Williams, by means of menaces and treats.

No determination.

March 5, 1713. A petition of Thomas Lewis, esq., against the undue return of Sir Charles Kemeys.

No report appears.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The ancestors of Mr. Hanbury Leigh, of Pontypool, represented this county from 1722 to 1790, since which time the Duke of Beaufort and the family of Sir Charles Morgan, of Tredegar, have

each nominated a member. The Earl of Abergavenny and Mr. Lewes, of St. Pierre, have considerable property in this county; but the influence of these two opulent families is never opposed.

MONMOUTH—TOWN.

MONMOUTH, a borough, market, and county-town of Monmouthshire, situated at the conflux of Munnow and Wye, 25 miles from Gloucester, and 132 from London; containing 638 houses and 3,345 inhabitants, viz. 1,512 males and 1,833 females, of whom 609 were returned employed in various trades, and 380 in agriculture. Over each of the rivers is a handsome stone bridge, and another over the small river Trothy, which falls into the Wye. There is a considerable iron manufactory in the town, and many of the inhabitants derive subsistence from the preparation of bark, which is brought from the forests of Wye, and sent to Chepstow. Half a mile from the town is Troy-house, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort, where is shewn the cradle in which Henry V., was rocked, and the armour he wore at the battle of Agincourt. The market is on Saturday, and is well supplied with corn and all kinds of provisions. Fairs, Whit Tuesday, 4th September, and 22d November.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town, like the county, has been represented from the 27th of Henry VIII.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 26, 1640. A petition from the several towns of Abergavenny, Usk, and Newport.

No report appears.

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of John Arnold, esq., touching the election and return for this borough.

Nov. 26. Resolved: "That the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough *does not belong to the burgesses and inhabitants of this borough only!*"

"That the burgesses inhabitants *of the boroughs of Newport and Usk*, in this county, *have a right to vote* at the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament *for this said borough.*"

"That Charles Lord Herbert is not duly elected."

"That John Arnold, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve for this borough; which several resolutions, being twice read, were agreed to by the House.

March 31, 1715. A petition of Andrews Windsor, esq., against the undue return of William Bray, esq.

June 14. The clerk of the crown attended with the return for this borough, which appeared to be made by the mayor of Newport, and several burgesses of Monmouth, Newport, and Usk, *without* the precept of the sheriff of the county of Monmouth being annexed thereto.

Ordered: "That the clerk of the crown do take the said return off the file."

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, recorder, two bailiffs, and 15 common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 800.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and Bailiffs.

PATRON—the Duke of Beaufort.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

We do not find any contest having taken place for these three boroughs, which are united in the choice of one member for the last century. The nomination of the Duke of Beaufort has been always submitted to as implicitly as it is in the county of Monmouth.

NORFOLK.

NORFOLK, a county of England, bounded on the north and north-east by the German Ocean, on the south and south-east by Suffolk, on the west by the Lincolnshire Washes, and by part of that county and of Cambridgeshire, is almost entirely insulated by the sea, and by the rivers which

form its internal boundary. It is about 70 miles long and 45 broad, containing 1,094,400 acres of land, having about 730,000 arable, 263,400 in pasturage and about 90,000 uncultivated, including wood-lands. It contains one city, Norwich; four boroughs, Lynn Regis, Castle Rising, Thetford, and Yarmouth; and 28 market-towns, viz. Aylsham, Attlebury, Buckenham, Burnham, Caister, Clay, East Dereham, Diss, Downham, Fakenham, Foulsham, Harleston, East Harling, Hickling, Hingham, Holt, Loddon, Methwold, Repeham, Setching, Snettisham, Swaffham, Walsham, Walsingham, Watton, Windham, and Worstead. It is divided into 32 hundreds, viz. Blofield, Brothercross, Clackclose, Clavering, Depwade, Diss, Earsham, Erpingham North and South, Eynesford, Flegg East and West, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn and Marshland, Gallow, Greenhoe North and South, Grimshoe, Guiltcross, Happening, Henstead, Holt, Humbleyard, Launditch, Loddon, Mitford, Shropham, Smithdon, Taverham, Tunstead, Walsham, and Wayland. The whole county contains 47,617 houses, inhabited by 273,371 persons, viz. 129,842 males, and 143,529 females, of whom 38,181 were returned as being employed in various trades, manufacture, or handicraft, and 61,791 in agriculture.

On the western extremity, adjoining the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln, is a considerable tract of flat fenny land; and on the east, near Yarmouth, a narrow tract of marshes runs from the sea to some distance up the country—several of

the western hundreds, from Thetford northwards, are open and bare, consisting of extensive heaths, having a light sandy or gravelly soil. To the north-east the soil is a light sandy loam, fertile and remarkably easy of tillage. The south-east has a moister and deeper soil, and the middle and south abound in clay. The article for which this county is particularly celebrated is turnips, which form the basis of the Norfolk husbandry. The excellence of this culture is that the ground never lies fallow, as the turnips serve to prepare it for corn. This root is principally used for the fattening of cattle, of which great numbers are here fed for the London market. The principal rivers of this county are the Great Ouse, which forms the south-western boundary, crosses the western side, and falls into the sea below Lynn. The Little Ouse rises about the middle of the Suffolk border, and falls into the Great Ouse, being navigable from Thetford. The Nen, forming the western boundary, and falling into the Lincolnshire Washes, communicates by several channels with the Ouse. The source of the Waveney is separated from that of the Ouse only by a causeway: it runs in a contrary direction, and forming the rest of the Suffolk boundary, at length joins the Yare a little above Yarmouth, and is navigable from Bungay. The Yare, rising near Attleborough, joins the Wensum and other small streams, at and near Norwich, flows to Yarmouth, and receiving the Waveney and Bure, discharges itself into the German Ocean.

The city of Norwich has long been noted for its manufactory of crapes, bombazeens, and stuffs of various kinds, but it is not so considerable as formerly, from the successful rivalship of the cotton branches within these few years. The operation of spinning and preparing the wool employs the poor of most of the small towns and villages in the county; the wool being brought from Leicester, Lincoln, and Northamptonshire. Its ports are King's Lynn, Yarmouth, Blackeney, and Cley.

Norfolk was anciently inhabited by the Iceni, and was afterwards part of the East Saxon Kingdom, and the Roman Way, called Ermine-street, crossed this county from Suffolk to Yarmouth. It lies in the diocese of Norwich and province of Canterbury, and contains no less than 660 parishes, and sends 12 members to Parliament. The total amount of assessment under the property-tax in 1806 was 2,414,475*l.* Amount of money raised for the maintenance of the poor in 1803, 204,532*l.*, which was at the rate of 5*s.* 2*d.* in the pound. And the average scale of mortality for ten years appears to have been as 1 to 47 $\frac{3}{4}$ of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has sent members to Parliament since the first summons for knights of the shire in the reign of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. March 19, 1678. A petition of Sir John Hobart, bart., complaining of the undue election and return of Sir Christopher Cal-

thorpe and Sir Neville Cataline, and of many undue practices and threats used by the lord lieutenant and under-sheriff of this county, and one John Hurton.

March 28, 1679. A petition of Sir Christopher Calthorp, knt., praying longer time for hearing the cause between him and Sir John Hobart, bart., by reason of his being visited by the small-pox.

The prayer of this petition refused.

April 21. The House took the said matter into consideration, and

Resolved: "That Sir Christopher Calthorp and Sir Neville Cataline, barts., are not duly elected."

"That Sir John Hobart, bart., is not duly elected."

Ordered: "That Mr. Samuel Verdon, an attorney, acting as under-sheriff of this county, be sent for in custody of the sergeant at arms, to answer his miscarriages and ill practices in electing knights of the shire."

Ordered: "That Doctor John Hyldyard be also sent for in the custody of the sergeant at arms, to answer his contempt, in not attending this House when summoned so to do."

May 12. The House being informed that John Jay, esq., high-sheriff of this county, has refused to make a return of the writ for electing two knights of the shire.

Ordered: "That the said John Jay, esq., be sent for in the custody of the sergeant at arms, for his misdemeanor."

Nov. 25, 1680. A petition of the inhabitants

of this county against Samuel Verdon, esq., under-sheriff of this county, for several misdemeanors committed by him.

Ordered: "That the said under-sheriff be sent for in the custody of the sergeant at arms, to answer at the bar for a notorious breach of the privilege against the House."

Dec. 14. Ordered: "That Mr. Baispole, an attorney of Norfolk, be sent for in the custody of the sergeant at arms, to answer at the bar for a breach of privilege committed by him, viz. "*in obstructing the sergeant at arms, and his messengers in endeavouring to secure Samuel Verdon, esq., under-sheriff of this county, pursuant to a warrant issued by the House.*"

March 31, 1715. A petition of Sir Ralph Hare, bart., and Erasmus Earl, esq., against the return of Sir Jacob Astley and Thomas de Gray, esq., by means of bribery and other corrupt practices.

No report appears.

Parl. 8. Robert Coke and William Morden, esqrs., petitioned; the former withdrew his petition, the latter renewed in sessions 2 and 3, and then withdrew his.

Imp. Parl. 3. A petition from several of the electors against the return of Thomas William Coke and William Wyndham, esqrs.

On the 19th of February, 1807, the House found, that neither Mr. Coke nor Mr. Wyndham were duly elected.

A new writ ordered March —, 1807.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county has been contested between the court and country parties at almost every general election for many Parliaments, but the result has always been favourable to the cause of liberty. That highly distinguished character, Thomas William Coke, of Holkham, esq., who ranks as the first commoner in point of wealth, and second to none in the pride of independence, has always been the successful champion of the cause he so honourably espouses. Sir Jacob Henry Astley, the colleague of his triumphs, has lately succeeded to the great Delaval estates in Northumberland, and supports with him the dignity of an independent county representative in the House of Commons.

The noblemen in this county are the Marquis Townshend, Earl of Buckinghamshire, Earl Cholmondeley, Earl of Orford, Lord Suffield, Lord Woodhouse, Lord Bayning, &c.

CITY OF NORWICH.

NORWICH, a city in the hundred of Humbleyard, Norfolk, is 29 miles from Thetford, and 109 from London; containing 41 parishes, 8,016 houses, and 36,854 inhabitants, viz. 15,792 males and 21,040 females, of whom 12,267 were returned as being employed in trade, manufacture, and handicraft, and 408 in agriculture. Its manufactures are principally those of woollen stuffs. The ma-

nufacture itself is confined to the city, but the operation of spinning and preparing the wool employs the poor of most of the small towns and villages in the county. Norwich is situated on the river Yare, and is 30 miles distant from the sea by water and 16 by land. It contains 32 parish churches within the city, and four in the suburbs. Its ancient castle is now the gaol, and the spot on which it stands is said to have been a fortress in the time of the Saxons, built by King Offa, about the year 575, afterward replaced by a castle erected by Alfred. In 1325, the sessions were directed to be held here, and in 1399 it was made the county gaol. It stands in the heart of the city, having a deep moat round it, over which is a bridge of one arch. The cathedral was erected in 1096, by Herbert de Losing, but being much damaged by fire in 1171, it was repaired in 1180 by John bishop of Oxford. Besides the cathedral and castle, there are several other remarkable buildings, the town-hall, the guildhall, the house of correction, the shire-hall where the assizes are held, a lofty market cross built after the manner of a piazza; the bishop's palace, and the king's school.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city has returned members to Parliament from the 23d of Edward I. to the present time.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 7, 1640. Mr. Maynard reported from the committee on the double return for this city, of Mr. Harman and Mr. Catalyn, by one indenture, and Mr. Harman and Mr. Tooley by another indenture.

Resolved: "That Mr. Harman and Mr. Catalyn are duly elected and well returned, to serve as burgesses for this city; and ordered, the indenture wherein Mr. Tooley is returned, to be taken off the file."

"And the House took notice, that the conduct of the sheriff, in returning more than two members, is a great misdemeanor."

Jan. 5, 1701. A petition of Thomas Havers, esq., one of the sheriffs of this city, complaining of the undue and illegal conduct of Matthew Nall, esq., at the late election of citizens to serve in Parliament.

March 12, —. Resolved: "That the right of electing citizens, to serve in Parliament for this city, is in the freeholders, and such freemen only of the said city, as are entered in the books, and do not receive alms or charity."

"That those persons who had a right to their freedom in this city before the teste of the writ, and took out their freedom after the said teste, not having claimed the same before the teste, had not a right to vote at the last election."

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Walter Bacon and John Chambers, esqrs., against the return of Thomas Blofield and Thomas Palgrave, esqrs., by means of foul and illegal practices of the mayor and sheriffs.

— 3. A petition of Thomas Blofield and Thomas Palgrave, esqrs., against the return of William Bacon and John Chambers, esqrs., by reason of their not being freemen.

Dec. 6. The counsel for Mr. Bacon and Mr.

Chamber insisted: "That this city was a county
 " as well as a city; and that the freeholders had
 " votes as well as freemen. The statute required
 " as well *residents* or citizens, and that, as well in
 " boroughs as cities, and was made for the advan-
 " tage of the elected, that they might not be
 " forced to serve; that the usage had been quite
 " contrary to the construction which the counsel
 " on the other side; *and that their very election*
 " *made them free.*"

Upon the whole the committee resolved:

"That W. Bacon and John Chambers, esqrs.,
 are duly elected citizens to serve in Parliament
 for this city."

The said resolutions, being read twice, were
 agreed to by the House, and the indenture of the
 return of Mr. Blofield and Mr. Palgrave was or-
 dered to be taken off the file: and further

Resolved: "That William Blyth, esq., late
 mayor of this city, by printing and publishing a
pretended bye law, made in the year 1640, con-
 trary to *Magna Charta*, in order to terrify the
 electors of the said city from *free and impartial*
 voting, is guilty of an illegal proceeding:" and

Ordered: "The said William Blyth, for his of-
 fence, be taken into the custody of the sergeant at
 arms."

Parl. 8. Miles Branthwayt, esq., petitioned
 against Thomas Vere, esq.

Parl. 16. Sir Thomas Beevor, bart., and se-
 veral freeholders petitioned against Mr. Hobart's
 first election, and the committee found it a void
 election.—March, 1787.

Parl. 16. The same persons petitioned against Mr. Hobart's second election, but the committee found him duly elected.

CORPORATION.

A mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, twenty-three aldermen, and sixty common-councilmen. The mayor is nominated by the freemen, who return two aldermen to their court, one of whom is elected. The mayor, recorder, and the steward for the time being, are justices of the peace, and of the quorum, in the city and its liberties; the mayor, after his mayoralty expires, is justice of the peace for life. One of the sheriffs is annually elected by the aldermen, and the other by the freemen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 3000.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Sheriffs.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city is independent in the exercise of its elective rights, but there is a strong ministerial party here, as in all other places, which generally succeeds in bringing in one member; in consequence of which, its political consequence is lost by its representatives always dividing on opposite sides. This would be avoided if the whole country was put into equal districts of population, and each district elect one member, who being sent to Parliament by the voice of the people

would deliver their sentiments upon every division that took place. This is the constitutional, and only way, that the sense of the nation can, with safety and certainty, be collected.

YARMOUTH.

YARMOUTH, commonly called GREAT YARMOUTH, a sea-port, borough, and parish, in the hundred of East Flegg, Norfolk, situated on a peninsula, at the eastern extremity of the county, 22 miles from Norwich, 124 from London; containing 3,081 houses and 14,845 inhabitants, viz. 6,463 males and 8,382 females, of whom 1,400 were returned as being employed in various trades. It is encompassed on the south and east by the sea: on the north by the main land, and on the west by the Yare. It extends more than a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, containing four principal streets, running from north to south, and 156 narrow lanes or *rows* intersecting them. It is surrounded with a wall, with 10 gates and 16 towers.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This was a royal borough at the time of the general survey, and afterwards confirmed a borough by charter of King John; it sent burgesses to Parliament in the reign of King Edward I., in the 2d of Henry V., in the 7th of Edward IV., and in the 12th and 17th of the same reign.

PETITIONS, &c. May 18, 1660. Mr. Turner

reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, the case upon the double return for this borough ; that, upon examination of the fact, the question being, whether a select number of burgesses, or the burgesses at large, ought to elect?—

The committee are of opinion, that the burgesses at large ought to elect, and that of them Sir John Potts, knt. and baronet, and Sir William Doyley, having the greatest number of voices, are duly elected and ought to sit in the House: whereto the House agreed.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, recorder, seventeen aldermen, and thirty-six common-councilmen.

The corporation has particular and extensive privileges, it having both a court of record and an admiralty : in the court of record, civil causes are tried for unlimited sums ; and in the court of admiralty, they can, in some cases, try, condemn, and execute, without waiting for a warrant.

By a charter, granted by Henry III., the town is bound to send every year to the sheriffs of Norwich a hundred herrings, baked in twenty-four pasties, which the sheriffs are to deliver to the lord of the manor of East Carleton, a village near New Buckenham : he gives the sheriffs his receipt for them, and by his tenure, is obliged to present them to the king, wherever he is.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

In the Burgesses at large.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—800.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Marquis Townshend: one member.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough has been represented for more than a century by one of the family of the Marquis Townshend, who generally nominates one member and the government the other.

There was a petition from this place on the ground of bribery, in 1807, but compromised by complimenting the petitioners with their seats.

THETFORD.

THETFORD is a market-town, consisting of three parishes, in the hundred of Shropham, Norfolk, on the borders of Suffolk, 19 miles from Newmarket, and 80 from London; containing 483 houses and 2,245 inhabitants; of whom 367 were employed in various trades. The parish of St. Mary's lies on the Suffolk side of the river Ouse, on which side the whole of the town is recorded to have originally stood, together with several religious houses. This town has a considerable manufacture of woollen cloth and paper, and a trade to Lynn, by the navigation of the Ouse. The market is on Saturday. Fairs, 2d August, and 15th September.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

It never sent burgesses to Parliament until King Edward the Sixth's time, and was incorporated in the 16th of Queen Elizabeth.

The memoirs of contested elections in Parliament do not appear till since the Restoration; after which time, the following are to be found in the journals.

PETITIONS, &c. May 23d, 1685. A petition of Sir Joseph Williamson was read, complaining of an undue election and return of Henry Heveningham, esq., as burgess for this borough, to serve in this present Parliament.

May 30. A petition of the burgesses and inhabitants of this borough, touching the election for the said town was read.

Resolved: "That no mayor can duly return himself a burgess to serve in Parliament for the same borough of which he is mayor, at the time of the election."

Resolved: "That no mayor, bailiff, or other officer of a borough, who is the proper officer, to whom the precept ought to be directed, is capable of being elected to serve in Parliament for the same borough for which he is mayor, bailiff, or officer, at the time of the election."

Resolved: "That Henry Heveningham, esq., is not duly returned a burgess to serve in this Parliament for this borough."

June 17. Sir Christopher Musgrave reported from the committee upon the matter of the said

election, that the committee had come to the following resolutions :

1st. " That the right of election is in the mayor, burgesses, (which are ten,) and in the commonalty, or common-council, (which are twenty,) amounting in the whole to one-and-thirty."

2d. " That Sir Joseph Williamson is duly elected to serve in the present Parliament for this borough."

3d. " That William de Grey, esq., is duly elected to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Feb. 2, 1688. A petition of the mayor, burgesses, and commons of this borough, complaining of an undue election and return of members to serve in the present convention for this borough, was read.

28th. A petition of Abraham Felton, esq., complaining of an undue election and return for this borough, was read.

Upon the matter of Mr. Felton, the counsel gave no evidence. But upon the petition of the corporation against Mr. Harbord, in behalf of Sir Joseph Williamson : the question arose upon the irregular surrender of the charter of the borough ; the petitioner claiming a right under the new charter—Mr. Harbord under the former charter, which he insisted was still in full force.

Resolved, 1st. That William Harbord, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

2d. That Sir Francis Guybon is duly elected a

burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

March 28th, 1690. A petition of William Harbord, esq., and Sir Francis Guybon, was read; shewing, they were duly chosen burgesses for this borough; and an indenture thereof made by Edmond Roswell, the lawful mayor, by virtue of the old charter; but that one Tyrrell, the mayor, by virtue of the new charter upon the surrender, having gotten the precept in his custody, had made an indenture of return of Sir Joseph Williamson, and Adam Felton, esq., though not duly chosen: that the sheriff of the county has made double returns of both indentures, in prejudice of the petitioners: and praying, &c.

It appeared that William Harbord, esq., and Sir Francis Guybon, were returned by Edmond Russell, mayor, under the old charter of Queen Elizabeth; and Sir Joseph Williamson, and Adam Felton, esq., were returned by John Tyrrell, mayor, under the new charter: and the merits of the election depended upon the determining which was the right mayor.

That it was agreed, the right of election was in the Mayor, ten capital Burgesses, and twenty Common-councilmen.

That for Sir Joseph Williamson, and Mr. Felton, it was insisted, the charter of Queen Elizabeth, granted to this borough, and all other charters, &c. were surrendered: and produced a copy of the surrender, dated the 30th of Jan. 34 car. II. and the new charter the same year.

For Mr. Harbord, and Sir Francis Guybon, it was insisted, that the charter 16 Eliz. was not duly surrendered, nor agreed to by a majority of the corporation.

Resolved, 1st. That the charter 16 Elizabeth, granted to this borough is not duly nor legally surrendered.

2d. That William Harbord, esq., and Sir Francis Guybon, are duly returned and elected burgesses to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of Edward Soam, esq., was read; shewing that at the late election of members to serve in Parliament for this borough, Sir Joseph Williamson, and the petitioner, had the majority of legal voters; but Robert Caudle, the mayor of this borough, did refuse to poll several who had a right to poll for the petitioner; and admitted others who had none, to vote; and by many partial proceedings, and unlawful practices, James Sloan, esq., procured himself to be returned with Joseph Williamson, in wrong to the petitioner: and praying, &c.

Resolved, " That James Sloan, esq., in treating the corporation of this borough, has been guilty of a breach of the late act of parliament for preventing expenses in elections.

Resolved, " That James Sloan, esq., is not duly elected a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

Resolved, " That the said election is a void election: and a new writ was ordered for electing

a Burgess to serve in this Parliament for this borough."

Feb. 19th. Resolved, "That this House will on Saturday morning, in a full House, consider the act for preventing expenses in elections."

Ordered, That Mr. Sloan (as a member of this House) do attend in his place on Saturday morning next,

And a debate arising upon Mr. Sloan being again chosen and returned for this borough, it was resolved, that the said Mr. Sloan is incapable of serving in this present Parliament for the said borough.

Nov. 27, 1708. A petition of Sir Thomas Hammer, bart., and Dudley North, esq., was read; shewing, that at the election of burgesses to serve in this Parliament for this borough, there stood candidates, the petitioners, Thomas de Grey, and Robert Baylis, esqrs., and the petitioners had thereat a majority of legal voters, and ought to have been returned: but Robert Caudle the pretended mayor, refused the votes of divers duly qualified and offered to vote for the petitioners; and admitted others to vote for Mr. de Grey, and Mr. Baylis, who were not duly qualified: by reason whereof, and other illegal practices in order to, and at, the said election, the said mayor hath returned Mr. de Grey, and Mr. Baylis, contrary to justice, and in prejudice of the petitioners: and praying, &c.

No determination.

Imp. Parl. 3. Thomas Creevey, esq., and some

of the freemen petitioned against the election of James Mingay, esq. The committee reported, that James Mingay, esq., was not duly elected, and that Thomas Creevey, esq., was duly elected, and ought to have been returned, Feb. 4, 1807.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, and twenty common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Corporation only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—31.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRONS—Duke of Grafton and Lord Petre.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The patronage of this borough was for many years in dispute between the present patrons. Enormous expenses were incurred in law, by each party endeavouring to invalidate the appointments of mayor, aldermen, and common-council, in the opposite interest to each other. Information upon information issued from the the court of King's Bench; and as corporate rights have no uniform deposition, they must be the cause of endless litigation.

A late disgraceful contest in the election of a mayor, where two of the corporation were seized and detained by violence from giving their votes, has been too notoriously a subject of legal investigation to require a recapitulation in this work, and the numerous instances of similar contentions

daily occurring render them too familiar to attract public attention.

The Duke of Grafton and Lord Petre, have at last agreed to divide the influence of the borough, and nominate each a member.

LYNN REGIS.

LYNN REGIS, or KING'S LYNN, is a sea port, borough and market town, in the hundred of Free-bridge, Lynn, Norfolk, 11 miles from Downham, and 96½ from London. It is divided into 10 wards, containing 1,465 houses and 10,096 inhabitants, 4,540 males and 5,556 females of whom 2,103 were employed in various trades and manufactures. It stands on the right bank of the Ouse, near its mouth, about eight miles from the sea. In 1683, Sir John Turner, who had been three times mayor and many years representative in Parliament for this borough, erected at his own expense a handsome building of freestone, with two orders of columns, intending it as an exchange for the merchants; in a niche in the front is the statue of King Charles II., and within it is the custom house, fitted up with every accommodation possible. The harbour is capable of containing 300 merchant vessels, and the advantageous situation of the town gives it a considerable traffic with all the neighbouring counties, in wine, coals, and corn, exclusive of the produce of the country; and it has till lately had a considerable export trade to the Baltic, Spain, and Portugal. The market-place is very spacious, con-

taining an area of about three acres, having a very handsome market-cross of freestone, erected in 1710, adorned with statues. In a semi-circular form on each side are the butchers' shambles, in two divisions, the frontispieces being supported by Doric columns, and the pediments enriched with various appropriate decorations. Behind this is another building, fitted up as a fish-market, having some handsome houses enclosing it. Until the reign of Henry VIII., it appears to have been called Bishop's Lynn, when falling into his hands in consequence of some exchange of property, it changed its name to Lynn Regis. This town was taken by the parliamentary army in 1643, after a siege of three weeks, when it paid upwards of 3000*l.* ransom. The market days are on Tuesday and Saturday. The fairs 17th of October, called the cheese fair, and 14th of February; the last of which continues 14 days, and is generally well attended.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was first summoned to send members to Parliament in the 23d of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. May 3, 1675. A petition of Simon Taylor, esq., complaining of undue practices in the election of members for this borough.

No report appears.

Dec. 21, 1711. The commissioners of public accounts charged Robert Walpole, esq., with speculation, in the contract for forage for troops in North Britain, while secretary of war.

The charges being satisfactorily proved against him, the House resolved :

Jan. 17, 1712. “ That Robert Walpole, esq., (a member of this House) in receiving the sum of 500 guineas, and a note for 500 pounds more, on account of two contracts for forage for her majesty’s troops, made by him when secretary of war, is guilty of a high breach of trust, and notorious corruption ;”—and further

Resolved, “ That the said Robert Walpole, esq., for his offence, be expelled the House of Commons, and that he be committed prisoner to the Tower of London, during the pleasure of the House.

Feb. 23, —. A petition of the freemen, and free burgesses, against the return of Robert Walpole, esq., lately expelled this House, and a prisoner in the Tower, by means of the partiality of the mayor of this borough.

March 6, —. Resolved, “ That Robert Walpole, esq., having been this session committed a prisoner to the Tower, and expelled this House, was, and is, incapable of being elected a member to serve in this present Parliament.”

A petition of Samuel Taylor, esq., against the same return.

Resolved, “ That the petitioner is not duly elected.”

Sir Robert Walpole was afterwards re-elected, and took his seat.

March 29, —. A complaint being made that Mr. Robert Briscoe had neglected to deliver the

writ for electing a burgess to serve for this borough,

Resolved, "That the said Mr. Briscoe, is guilty of a neglect of his duty, in prejudice of the said borough, and of the right of elections,"—and

Ordered, That he be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms, for his said offence.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, recorder, 12 aldermen, and 18 common-councilmen, with other inferior officers.

Every first Monday in the month, the mayor, aldermen, magistrates, and preachers meet, to determine all controversies in an amicable manner between the inhabitants, in order to prevent law-suits. This excellent custom was established in 1558, and is called *the feast of reconciliation*.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 300.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRONS—Earl of Orford and Sir Martin Browne Folkes.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough was always attached to the Walpole family, under whose influence it continues at this time. Sir Robert Walpole was member for this place at the time of his famous expulsion, in 1711, for alienating five hundred pounds of the public money; the words of his expulsion being "for breach of trust, and notorious corruption when secretary at war." And it was resolved "that he was, and is, incapable of being elected a

“ member to serve in Parliament.” The electors of Lynn, however, chose him again, although opposed by a Mr. Taylor. The unsuccessful candidate petitioned the House against the re-election of Sir Robert Walpole ; but the House had the modesty to refuse Mr. Taylor, on account of his having only a minority of votes, and declared the election void. In this case the Commons acted constitutionally ; but in seating Mr. Luttrell for the county of Middlesex, instead of Mr. Wilkes, their conduct was directly the reverse. Their conviction of the proceedings upon that head being improper, is manifested in their expunging those resolutions which had formerly passed, relative to that business, declaring them illegal and unconstitutional.

The number of voters in this town would be fourteen hundred if the right of election was in the householders, at present it is limited to about a fifth of that number.

CASTLE RISING.

CASTLE RISING is a borough and parish in the hundred of Frebridge Lynn, Norfolk, 5 miles from Lynn, and 110 from London ; containing 46 houses and 254 inhabitants. It is a corporation, and sends two members to Parliament, though now a poor place, and without a market, it was formerly the most considerable sea-port in the county, next to Lynn and Yarmouth, but the harbour is now choaked up and the trade lost. It

appears that the sea formerly came up to this town, not only from its often being overflowed by spring tides, &c., in the neighbourhood, but by an anchor, which was dug up some years since in *Haven-lane*.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough never sent members till the last year of Philip and Mary, 1558. It had at that time a mayor, high steward, twelve aldermen, and an indefinite number of burgesses, but since the borough has fallen into decay. Blomefield in his history of Norfolk observes the number of aldermen have been reduced to two, who alternately take the office of mayor.

PETITIONS, &c. Jan. 7, 1673. A petition of Robert Offley, esq., against the undue return of Samuel Pepis, esq., in prejudice to the petitioner.

Feb. 6. Resolved, "That Mr. Pepis is not duly elected."

"That Mr. Offley is not duly elected."

"That the election is a void election."

10th. Information being given to the House by some members that they had received an account from a person of quality, *that he saw an Altar, with a Crucifix upon it, in the house of Mr. PEPIS;* and Mr. Pepis, standing up in his place, did heartily and flatly deny, that he ever had any altar, or crucifix, or the image or picture of any saint whatever, in his house, from the top to the bottom of it.

Ordered, "That such members of this House, who have given the said information against Mr.

Pepis, do name the person or persons who informed them of the matter thereof."

The members then named Lord Shaftesbury as their authority, and the House was also informed that one Sir John Banks, had likewise seen the altar.

The committee appointed to investigate the matter touching the charge preferred against Mr. Pepis, reported

"That the Earl of Shaftesbury positively *denied* that he ever saw an altar in Mr. Pepis's House or lodgings."

"That Sir John Banks deposed that he had known, and been acquainted with Mr. Pepis several years, and often visited him, but never saw in his house, any altar or crucifix, and that he does not believe him to be a papist, or in the least way so inclined."

No further report appears upon the charges exhibited against Mr. Pepis.

CORPORATION.

It has a mayor, twelve aldermen, and an indefinite number of burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Free Burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—the corporation is kept as low as possible.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRONS—Earl Cholmondely, and Richard Howard, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough was the property of the late Lady Viscountess Andover, and a former Earl of Orford. Lady Andover's share came by marriage with her daughter to Richard Bagot, esq., brother of the late Lord Bagot, who upon that marriage took the surname of Howard, and has for near fifty years held the very lucrative situation of collector of the land tax for the city of London, and county of Middlesex; and the other moiety of the borough descended by the will of the Earl of Orford to the present Earl Cholmondely.

There being only 46 houses including cottages in this borough, its rights are only nominal. The few members who compose the corporation, are half of them named by Mr. Howard, and the other half by Earl Cholmondely, and are most of them non-residents, and these men in return implicitly obey the nomination of their two patrons in their return of two members.

The election of a mayor is also made out of this selected body who is the returning officer, and two individuals are said to elect each other alternately into this *important* office. The striking absurdity of such a representation, produces irresistible ridicule and contempt, but when we contemplate such a number of boroughs passing in review before us as send a majority of members to a British House of Commons, it rather causes the most serious astonishment at the existence of such a system, and a confirmed conviction of the necessity of reform.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE is an inland county of England, bounded on the north by Leicester, Rutland, and Lincolnshires, on the east by Cambridge, Huntingdon, and Bedfordshires, on the south by Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, and on the west by Oxford and Warwickshire, being nearly 60 miles long, and from eight to 22 broad ; containing 617,000 square statute acres, having about 290,000 arable, and 235,000 in pasturage, and about 86,000 uncultivated, including woodlands. It is divided into 19 hundreds, viz. Chipping-warden, Cleley, Corby, Fawsley, Greens-Norton, Guildsborough, Hamfordshoe, Higham-Ferrers, Huxloe, Kings-Sutton, Navisford, Nobottle-Grove, Orlingbury, Polebrook, Rothwell, Spelloe, Towcester, Willybrook, and Wymersley, and Peterborough Liberty, commonly called the hundred of Nassaburg ; containing one city, Peterborough, three boroughs, Northampton, Brackley, and Higham-Ferrers, and eight market-towns, viz. Daventry, Kettering, Oundle, Rockingham, Rothwell, Thrapston, Towcester, and Wellingborough. The whole county contains 336 parishes, 26,665 houses, inhabited by 131,757 persons, viz. 63,417 males and 68,340 females, of whom 34,126 were returned as being employed in trade, manufacture, or handicraft, and 29,303 in agriculture. It is a fine and pleasant county, but

its greatest defect is a scarcity of fuel, which is but scantily supplied by its woods, and they have been much diminished by the progress of agriculture. Yet it still possesses some not inconsiderable remains of its ancient forests, particularly that of Rockingham in the north west, and of Salcey and Whittlebury in the south. There are also several small woods interspersed in different parts of the county. The highest ground in Northamptonshire is in the neighbourhood of Daventry, where the rivers Nen and Cherwell, flowing into the eastern sea, and the Leam into the western, rise within a small distance of each other. A little further northwards, the Avon and the Welland, running into opposite seas, have their springs. About Towcester in the south, the country is hilly and the soil intermixed with clay and a sort of coarse grit stone. Its principal river is the *Nine* or *Nen*, which, rising in the west, flows first across the county to the eastern side and then turning northward runs the whole length of the county. From Northampton it is made navigable, and brings up vessels laden with Newcastle and Sunderland coals, which are sold at a high price. It receives many small streams, rising from the north-west side, and at Peterborough it crosses to the Isle of Ely and falls into the sea in Lincolnshire. This extreme part of the county is very liable to inundations and forms the commencement of the fenny tract, which extends through the Isle of Ely to the Lincolnshire washes. The Ouse just touches on the south eastern extremity of the county, forming a tract of rich meadows about Stony Stratford. Its pro-

ducts are the same as those of other farming counties, but it is peculiarly celebrated for its grazing land, particularly the tract lying from Northampton to the Leicestershire border; and horned cattle are here fed to an extraordinary size, and many horses of the large black breed are reared. Much of the arable land is still in open fields and many sheep are fed on the higher grounds. Considerable quantities of woad for the dyers' use are also cultivated. This county is not remarkable for trade or manufacture, except for boots and shoes, which are made in various parts for exportation. It has, however, a small trade in wool-combing and jenny spinning. The air is celebrated for being pure and wholesome. It was anciently inhabited by the Coritani, and under the Romans was comprised in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis; during the heptarchy it belonged to Mercia, and is now included in the midland circuit, in the diocese of Peterborough and province of Canterbury, and sends nine members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for Peterborough, two for Northampton, two for Brackley, and one for Higham Ferrers. The total amount for assessment under the property-tax in 1806 was £1,445,615. The amount of money raised for the maintenance of the poor in 1803 was £120,592, at the rate of 4s. 7d. in the pound. The average scale of mortality for a period of 10 years appears to have been as 1 to 48½ of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has sent members to Parliament from the first summons of Edward the First.

PETITIONS, &c. May 23, 1685. A petition of Edward Harbey, esq., complaining of the undue return of Sir Roger Norwich.

No report appears.

June 4. A petition of Sir Roger Norwich, but it does not appear upon what ground it was founded, or what became of it.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The nobility are more numerous in this county than in any other of the same dimensions in England. Amongst these we may enumerate the Duke of Dorset, Marquis of Exeter, Marquis of Northampton, Earl of Westmoreland, Earl of Radnor, Earl Spencer, Earl Fitzwilliam, Earl of Pomfret, Earl of Cardigan, Lord Sondes, Lord Montagu, Lord Lilford, Lord St. John, &c., &c. From whence it might be concluded, that the representation would always be divided among some of these families, but they are too numerous for each person to be accommodated, they therefore of necessity range themselves with their respective parties, and the opposition lords bring in one member, and the ministerial ones the other. There was a contest in 1807, when Lord Althorpe succeeded on the former, and General Cartwright on the latter interest. Sir James Langham, an independent country gentleman was the unsuccessful candidate.

NORTHAMPTON—TOWN.

NORTHAMPTON, a borough, and the county town of Northamptonshire, is situated on an eminence by the side of the river Nen or Nine, 15 miles from Newport Pagnell, and $65\frac{1}{2}$ from London; containing four parishes, 1,322 houses, inhabited by 7,020 persons, viz. 3,244 males and 3,776 females, of whom 2,496 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures, the principal of which are shoes, stockings, and lace; of the former great quantities are sent to the metropolis as well as exported. It formerly contained seven churches within the walls and two without, but the whole town was almost burnt to the ground in 1675, and it now contains only four. The horse market held here is deemed to excel all others in the kingdom, both for the saddle and harness. It is the chief rendezvous of the jockies both from York and London. In 1463 a battle was fought near this town, between the partisans of the houses of York and Lancaster, in which the latter were routed and King Henry taken prisoner by the Earl of Warwick, and carried to London. The markets are on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. The latter is the most considerable. Fairs, 20th July, 15th April, 4th May, 5th August, 25th August, 19th September, 28th November, and 19th December.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town has returned members to Parliament from the earliest time of Edward the First to the present.

PETITIONS, &c. May 17, 1661. A petition of the mayor, aldermen, bailiff, and part of the commonalty, touching the return for this borough.

22d. Resolved, "That the sheriff is not guilty of any misdemeanour that deserves the censure of the House,"—but

June 13th, Ordered, "That the mayor of the town of Northampton, for his misconduct in the election of members, and his irreverent and rude carriage in the church, and at the communion table, be committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms."

June 19. Upon a petition from the said mayor he was brought to the bar, and making a humble submission *upon his knees*, received a *grave* reprehension from Mr. Speaker, and was discharged on paying his fees.

March 24, 1661. A report being made that a petition was delivered to the committee on behalf of Sir William Dudley, touching the election for this town, but by reason of the adjournment of the said committee, the petition was not delivered into the House, within the limited time prescribed for receiving petitions.

Resolved, "That the said petition be received, as if the same had been delivered in due

time, and be referred to the committee to report thereon."

April 9, 1663. Sergeant Charleton reported, that the question was, whether the mayor, aldermen, and forty-eight had the sole power of election,—and that the committee was of opinion, "That the voices in election, *did not* belong to the mayor, aldermen, and forty-eight only,"—and "That Sir William Dudley was not duly elected—but that Mr. Hatton was duly elected:" to which the House agreed, and the clerk of the crown was ordered to attend and amend the said return.

April 26, 1664. Sir Job Charleton reported, touching the election for this town, between Sir John Barnard, and Sir Henry Yelverton, that the question between them was which of them had the majority of votes, being householders not receiving alms. That the committee were of opinion, "That the inhabitants, being householders, and "not receiving alms, were the proper electors for "this town,"—and "*That the sharing in the charitable gift, appointed to be distributed at Christmas, is a taking of alms.*"

"That Sir Henry Yelverton, had the majority of votes of the inhabitants, being householders, and not receiving alms, and was therefore duly elected."

To which resolutions the House agreed.

Nov. 6, 1678. A petition of Ralph Montague, esq., against the undue return of Sir William Temple, bart.

11th. Resolved, *nem. con.* “That the indenture annexed to the writ, whereby Sir William Temple is returned, is not a sufficient return.”

“That the indenture whereby Ralph Montague, esq., is returned a burgess for this town, is a due return ;” and,

Ordered : “That Mr. Neale, high-sheriff of the county, be committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms, for his misdemeanor in making an improper return.”

May 25, 1685. A petition of Thomas Dunkley, William Pettit, Richard Harris, and Edward Ward, touching the election for this borough.

No determination.

March 4, 1700. A petition of John Conant, L. D., against the return of ——— Andrews, esq., by means of bribery, promises, and entertainment.

No report appears.

Parl. 3. Francis Arundel, esq., petitioned.

No report.

Oct 18, 1722. A petition of William Wykes, esq., against the return of Edward Montague and William Wilmer, esqrs., by means of bribery, threats, and other illegal practices.

Dec. 10. Petition withdrawn.

March 21, 1735. Edward Montague, esq., petitioned against George Compton, esq.

Parl. 13. The Hon. Thomas Howe petitioned against the sitting members. The House agreed with the committee, that the petitioner and Sir George Bridges Rodney, bart., were duly elected, and ought to have been returned ; and the return was amended by erasing Sir George Osborne's

name; and inserting that of the Hon. Thomas Howe.

CORPORATION.

It was incorporated by charter of King James I., *anno* 16—, and consists of a mayor, two bailiffs, a recorder, and 48 common-councilmen, out of whom the mayor is chosen, who is ever after reputed an alderman,

RIGHT OF ELECTION,

April 26, 1665—in the Inhabitant Householders not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1,300.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Marquis of Northampton, one member.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This town presents us with the most violent contest for aristocratic pre-eminence that has taken place for the last century.

It happened at the general election in 1768, when the present Sir George Osborne, bart., was supported by his uncle, the late Earl of Halifax; Sir George Bridges Rodney, afterwards Lord Rodney, by the late Earl of Northampton, father of the present marquis; and the Hon. Thomas Howe, brother of the admiral, afterwards Earl Howe, supported by the late Earl Spencer. Sir George Osborne and Sir George Bridges Rodney were returned; but upon a petition to the House of Commons, the Hon. Thomas Howe and Sir G. B. Rodney were declared duly elected; and Sir George Osborne of course lost his seat.

The effects of this struggle were of such a tendency to the parties embarked in it, as to cause the estates of the Earl of Halifax to be sold soon after his death for the benefit of his creditors; the Earl of Northampton to live out of his native country; and the fortune of Earl Spencer to be considerably hurt. The enormous expenses with which this paroxysm for power was accompanied, have since permitted the independent party to exercise their right in the election of one representative.

The right of election in this town being in the inhabitant householders, such of them as receive an annual donation distributed at Christmas are, by a special resolution of the House, disqualified from voting. This resolution is not only repugnant to the spirit of what may be called the present common law of the committees, but expressly contrary to the decision on the Bedford petitions in 1775 and 1792; when it was determined, that persons receiving *charity* were not thereby disabled from voting, but that receiving *alms* was a disqualification. By this we are to understand, that the words *alms* and *charity* are not synonymous.

CONTRARY DETERMINATIONS.

In the case of Aylesbury, 28th January, 1698-9, it was resolved, that all persons receiving *alms* within the borough of Aylesbury, pursuant to the will of Mr. Bedford, or any other persons receiving *any other charity annually distributed* within the said town, are, in respect thereof, disabled to vote

in the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament.

Dec. 4, 1708. In the case of the borough of Reading, it was resolved, That such persons as have, within *two years* last, received *Kendrick's charity*, or any other *annual charity*, have no right to vote in the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament.

In the Coventry case, February 24, 1701-2, it was resolved, That the Freemen of Coventry, receiving *alms* or *charity*, have no right to vote in the election of citizens to serve in Parliament.

In 1690, the House of Commons resolved, That *alms* meant only parish relief; and in the case of Sandwich, the 31st of October the same year, it was especially agreed by the committee, that the freemen of the port of Sandwich inhabiting within the said port, *although they receive alms*, have a right to vote. To reconcile these contradictory resolutions, no other remedy can be adopted but that of a plain and simple *parliamentary reform*! Every question of election right being, under the *present form* of representation, equally inexplicable, the removal of which will employ the committees of the House of Commons to the end of time, without any other consequence than that of involving it in greater complication and intricacy. The necessity of recurring to the plain and simple constitution of our Saxon ancestors, becomes every day more evident, when every master of a family, or, in the modern acceptation of the term, every inhabitant housekeeper throughout Great Britain shall be admitted to the free exercise of his fran-

chise. The questions then respecting residence and non-residence, freemen obtaining their exclusive rights by private favour or purchase, and the endless train of abuses and impositions to which the House of Commons and the public are at present liable, would be removed.

The corporation of this town is in the interest of the Marquis of Northampton, who is their recorder, and has the influence of nominating one of their members.

PETERBOROUGH CITY.

PETERBOROUGH, a city in the hundred of Nasaburgh, or Peterborough liberties, Northampton, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Stilton, and $78\frac{1}{2}$ from London; containing 727 houses and 3,449 inhabitants, viz. 1,571 males and 1,878 females, of whom 735 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures, and 181 in agriculture. This city is situated on the northern side of the river Nen, on the borders of Huntingdonshire, its ancient name being Medeshamsted. There is only one parish church, exclusive of the cathedral, which contains nothing remarkable. Many of the buildings are extremely neat, and the streets regular; near the cathedral is a good market-house, over which are held the assizes and sessions for the hundred. The trade in corn and timber is very considerable, and the stocking manufacture is carried on here to great extent. This is reckoned the least city and the poorest bishopric in England. The

market on Saturday is very plentifully supplied. Fairs, 10th July for cloth, cattle, and pedlary, and on the 2d and 3rd October.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city first sent members to Parliament in the year 1547, Edward VI.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 8, 1667. Sergeant Charleton reported the case between Sir Vere Fane and Lord Fitzwilliam, touching the election for this city, that Lord Fitzwilliam, having the majority of votes from the inhabitants, paying scot and lot, was duly elected, and ought to sit, and that the bailiff had made an undue return; to which the House agreed; whereon

“The bailiff being called in, and kneeling at the bar, he acknowledged his offence, stating that he did it through ignorance, and receiving the reproof of the House from Mr. Speaker, he was discharged.”

May 30, 1685. A petition of the dean and chapter of Peterborough touching the election for this city.

No report appears.

Feb. 14, 1700. A petition of Francis St. John, esq., against the unjust return of Sidney Wortley, *alias* Montague, esq., by means of bribery, entertainments, and other illegal practices.

Jan. 16, 1701. Resolved: “That Sidney Wortley, *alias* Montague, esq., is duly elected a citizen to serve in Parliament for this city;” which was agreed to by the House.

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of the dean and prebendaries of the cathedral church of Peterborough against the return of Mr. Fitzwilliam and Mr. Parker.

A petition of the Hon. Sidney Wortley, *alias* Montague, esq., against the same return.

No determination appears.

Sir Edward O'Brien, bart., having been found not duly returned, had leave to petition, which he did; and upon hearing, May 13, 1728, the House resolved, "That Sidney Wortley, esq., lately deceased, was duly elected." A new writ ordered May 14.

In 1774, James Phipps, esq., petitioned against the return of Matthew Wyldbore, esq. A committee to take this case into consideration was chosen Nov. 22, 1775. The only enquiry was, whether the sitting member or petitioner had the majority of legal votes? The numbers on the poll, as delivered in by the returning officer, were,

For M. Wyldbore, esq.219

J. Phipps, esq.212

On the 27th of November, it was determined, that the sitting member was duly elected.

CORPORATION.

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

June 16, 1701. Agreed, that the right was in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot.

April 9, 1728. The execution of the precept for electing citizens to serve in Parliament, and the

Glenbervie,
vol. iii. p.
63-67.

making the return thereof, are in the Bailiff of the said city, appointed by the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Peterborough.

May 13, 1728. The right of electing citizens to serve in Parliament for the city of Peterborough, is in the Inhabitants within the precincts of the minster, being householders not receiving alms, and other the inhabitants of the said city, paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—400.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Steward, appointed by the dean and chapter.

PATRON—Earl Fitzwilliam.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city has a peculiar jurisdiction, independent of the county of Northampton, which extends over thirty-two towns and hamlets, in which the civil magistrates are appointed by royal commission, and are vested with the same power as the judges of assize.

The liberty of the Tower Hamlets, in the county of Middlesex, is similar in every thing but the power of its magistrates, which does not exceed that of an ordinary justice of the peace for a county in the latter; while in the former it extends to capital offences at their quarterly sessions, which are held in this city.

The right of voting for members of Parliament does not, however, extend to the inhabitants of these *thirty-two towns and hamlets*: care has been taken by the House of Commons, in their resolutions of the 13th of May, 1728, to confine that

privilege to the inhabitants within the precincts of the minster, and the other inhabitants of the city alone, being householders, not receiving alms, and paying scot and lot.

The liberty of the Tower Hamlets, indeed, is altogether without representation, though it embraces the populous and opulent manufacturing district of Spital-fields; and extends from the borders of the city of London, in Whitechapel, to Stratford, in the county of Essex; yet, like this liberty, it has all the other local distinctions of a separate county, and each has a lord-lieutenant and a militia different from those of the counties of Middlesex and Northampton, in which they are situated.

Earl Fitzwilliam, the present lord-lieutenant of Peterborough liberty, possesses the parliamentary patronage of this city, which he commands with as much ease as that of his burgage-tenures at Malton, and his corporation at Higham Ferrars. The dean and chapter of the cathedral appoint the returning officer.

There being neither mayor, recorder, nor corporation in this city, the steward or bailiff of the chapter officiates as sheriff at elections, and makes the return of its members.

BRACKLEY.

BRACKLEY, a borough and market-town in the hundred of King Sutton, Northampton, seven miles from Buckingham, and $63\frac{1}{4}$ from London. It stands on the borders of Bucks, from which it is divided by the branches of the Ouze. This is one of the oldest boroughs in England, and many remains of its former greatness are still observable. When knight-errantry was carried on in this kingdom, it was celebrated for the tilts and tournaments held here. It had once a very great trade in wool. It contains 256 houses and 1,420 inhabitants, of whom 618 were returned as being employed in trade and manufactures. It has a very handsome market-hall, with a market, well supplied, on Wednesdays, and four fairs, on the 2d Wednesday in April, the Wednesday after June 28th, and the Wednesday before 10th October and 11th December.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough never sent members to Parliament until the first year of King Edward VI.

PETITIONS, &c. May 17, 1661. Sir William Farmer, knt., deceased, and Robert Spencer, esq., were returned by one indenture by the mayor, and Sir Thomas Crew by another indenture by the burgesses.

July 18. Resolved: "That Sir Thomas Crew

is duly elected, and ought to sit in the House;" to which the House agreed.

Dec. 17, 1698. A petition of Harry Moredaunt, esq., was read, setting forth, that, at the late election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough, the petitioner, Charles Egerton, esq., and Sir John Aubery, were candidates: that Sir John Aubery, by contracts, bribes, and other illegal practices, has procured himself to be returned.

This petition was never heard.

Dec. 1, 1710. A petition of John Burgh, esq., was read, shewing, that at the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough, the petitioner, and Charles Egerton and William Egerton, esqrs., were candidates; and the petitioner and William Egerton were duly chosen, and ought to have been returned; but one William Thonger having by indirect practices got the precept, gave it to Richard Watts, who was not the legal mayor of the said borough; yet Francis Neal, the steward of the said borough, swore him as such, and refused to swear Mr. William Mason, who was duly elected mayor on the 2d of October last; and Watts taking upon him the execution of the precept, and by bribery and other undue practices of the said Charles Egerton, Watts, Neal, and other agents, the said Charles Egerton has procured himself to be returned, with the said William Egerton, in wrong of the petitioner, and praying, &c. The poll was—

For Mr. Egerton.....17

Mr. Burgh16

As to bribery, Thomas Durrant said he had

been offered ten guineas by Mr. Price, and five pounds by Mr. Frewen, for his vote for a common-councilman, and the same for Mr. Burgh; but that he had refused both, and voted for Mr. Egerton.

Elizabeth Watts said, after the writs were out, Mr. Frewen offered a treat at her house, or any thing else, if her husband would vote for Mr. Burgh; and three weeks before the election, Welshman offered Hilton to pay a debt of eight pounds if he would be for Mr. Burgh.

Resolved: "That Charles Egerton, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That John Burgh is duly elected."

March 3, 1713. A petition of John Burgh, esq., was read, shewing, that on the 27th of August, 1712, at the election for this borough, the petitioner, Henry Watkins, the Hon. William Egerton, and Paul Methuen, esq., were candidates, but by means of bribery, &c., and at the instigation of a peer of the realm, William Egerton and Paul Methuen, esqrs., are unduly returned; also,

A petition of Henry Watkins, esq., to the same effect, and almost in the same words, was read.

April 20, 1714. Sir Gilbert Dolben reported the matter, viz.—That the poll was—

For Mr. Methuen 19

Mr. Egerton 18

Mr. Burgh 14

Mr. Watkins 13

Resolved: "That the right of election of members, to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the said borough, residing within the borough."

Resolved: "That Paul Methuen, esq., is duly elected."

Resolved: "That William Egerton, esq., is duly elected."

The first resolution being read twice, an amendment was made, by leaving out the words, "residing in the said borough," and the House resolved,

"That the right of election of members to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the said borough."

The second resolution being read a second time, was disagreed to by the House.

The third resolution being read a second time, was also disagreed to by the House.

Resolved: "That John Burgh, esq., is duly elected."

CORPORATION.

This consists of a mayor, six aldermen, and 26 burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Corporation only, whether they reside in or out of the borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—33.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRONS—Marquis of Stafford and Earl of Bridgewater.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This corporation appears to have been under the influence of the Bridgewater family ever since the year 1695, and is still under the same patronage.

HIGHAM FERRERS.

HIGHAM FERRERS, a borough, market-town, and parish in the hundred of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, 15 miles from Bedford, and 64 from London; containing 125 houses and 726 inhabitants. This town is situated on a rocky elevated ground, abounding with springs. The market is on Saturday, and fairs on February 5, March 7, May 3, June 28, August 5, October 10, and the Thursday before December 17.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This was not a borough in the 38th of Henry the Sixth, but was then the King's manor: and in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary, it was incorporated, and made one, and has returned one member to Parliament ever since.

PETITIONS, &c. May 16, 1660. Mr. Turner reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections the case upon the double return for this borough. The question appearing to be, whether a select number of burgesses, or the burgesses at large, ought to elect—the committee were of opinion, “That the burgesses at large ought to elect; and Sir Thomas Dacres was duly elected by them, and ought to sit.”

March 19, 1678. A petition of Sir Lewis Palmer, bart., complaining of an undue return of Sir Rice Rudd, bart., to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

No report.

May 23, 1685. A petition of Sir Matthew Dudley, bart., complaining of the undue return of Sir Lewis Palmer.

No report.

Feb. 26, 1700. A petition of Thomas Andrews, esq., against the return of Thomas Ekins, esq.

No report.

Oct. 24, 1702. A petition of the Hon. Thomas Wentworth, esq., against Thomas Pemberton, esq.

Jan. 28, 1703. Mr. Bromley reported, That upon the poll the numbers were

For the petitioner43

For the sitting member51

The petitioner's counsel stated the right of election to be "in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses at large;" and the sitting member's counsel insisted "that the freemen ought to be householders."

Resolved: "That the right of electing a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the mayor, aldermen, burgesses, and freemen, being householders not receiving alms."

Mr. Pemberton's counsel alleged they could take off from Mr. Wentworth's poll; but the majority was clearly with them, and therefore they waved it, and only called witnesses to indirect practices.

Freemen and Richards said, Lord Rockingham, about thirteen or fourteen years since, promised to give 50*l.* towards renewing the lease of the poor estate, which was after taken over their heads; that, about a month or six weeks before the election, Mr. Nevison, Lord Rockingham's steward,

brought the 50*l.* to buy a piece of land, to be settled to the use of the poor; that he sent to several persons to his inn, shewed the money, and said what it was designed for; but being told he could not purchase any such piece of land, he carried the money back again. It was owned that Mr. Elkins said several times he would engage for it; and Mr. Nevison said, when he brought it, it was not on account of the election; and he carried it to Mr. Pemberton's house, and enquired if he would sell him a piece of land for that purpose.

Anne Jervoise and ——— Draper said, Mr. Wentworth's bailiff gave two shillings and six-pence to each of them, to engage them to get their husbands' votes for Mr. Wentworth; and Woodley, Underwood, and Freeman, were there; but these denied the matter, but owned Mr. Wentworth had given 20*s.* to the poor, who were not voters, to be distributed by twelve-pence and six-pence to each.

Resolved, "That Thomas Pemberton, esq., is duly elected.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, seven aldermen, and 13 capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Mayor, Aldermen, capital Burgesses, and Freemen, being Householders, and not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 40.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PROPRIETOR—Earl Fitzwilliam.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough is the property of Earl Fitzwilliam, and his lordship's ancestors have nominated the member ever since the determination of the last petition in 1702. The only thing remarkable in these proprietary boroughs is, that all those, of such a description, have become so since the restoration of Charles II., and that they are now become so numerous as to deprive the people of the whole United Kingdom, of all share in what is called representation, as the members for these boroughs, and those under the immediate influence of individual peers, and interested patrons, amount to three parts in four of the members composing our present House of Commons.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTHUMBERLAND, a county in the north of England, is bounded on the east by the German ocean, on the south by the county of Durham, on the west by the counties of Roxburgh, in Scotland, and Cumberland, and on the north by Berwickshire, in Scotland. Its greatest length from north to south is 64 miles, and breadth 48, and contains 1,980 square miles, which may be divided into lands that are, or may be, cultivated by the plough 817,200 acres, and mountainous districts,

improper for tillage, 450,000 acres, making, in the whole, 1,267,200 acres. It is divided into six wards, viz. Tindal, Coquetdale, Glendale, Bamborough, Morpeth, and Castle ward. According to the returns made to the House of Commons under the Population Act, this county contained 26,518 inhabited houses, 35,503 families, 157,101 persons, of whom 73,357 were males and 83,744 females; 23,190 were stated to be employed in agriculture, and 25,738 in trades and manufactures. Northumberland is described as containing 1,809 square statute miles, equal to 1,157,760 statute acres; the number of inhabitants on each square mile, of 640 acres, 87; and the total number of persons 157,383. Coal is found in abundance through the greatest part of this county, particularly in the lower district; in the south-east quarter it is of the best quality, where are also the most numerous and thickest seams from which those vast quantities are exported which supply the great consumption of the London market, as well as the coasting and foreign trade. The coal trade is the foundation of the commerce of the county, and the principal source of its wealth, as well as a never-failing nursery for some of the best seamen in the British navy. The annual quantity exported from this county may be fairly estimated at 510,000 Newcastle chaldrons, or 956,250 London chaldrons; the Newcastle chaldron being, to the London chaldron, in the ratio of 8 to 15. In the year 1792, there were employed in this trade on the river Tyne 38,475 persons, and on the river Wear 26,250. Limestone

abounds in various parts of the county. Lead ore is found in the mountainous districts on the south-west part of the county, and zinc is found in great abundance, imbedded with the spar, in most of the veins producing lead ore. Iron ore is obtained in many parts of the county, and of late years the convenience of shipping it at Holy Island has induced the Carron Company to have considerable quantities from thence. The principal rivers are the Tyne, Blyth, Wansbeck, Coquet, Aln, and the Tweed. The Tyne and Tweed have long been celebrated for their salmon fisheries; and nearly the whole of the salmon caught are sent to London. The coasts are rich in cod, ling, turbot, soles, plaice, whittings, &c. The market towns in Northumberland, are Newcastle, Hexham, Belford, Morpeth, Wooler, Rothbury, Allendale, Alnwick, and Berwick. This county sends eight members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for Newcastle, two for Morpeth, and two for Berwick. The total of money raised in Northumberland for the maintenance of the poor in 1803, was 66,106*l.* at the rate of 1*s.* 8¼*d.* in the pound. The amount of the assessment of this county under the property-tax act in 1806, was 1,966,334*l.* In this county there are no canals. Its commerce is derived principally from the coal trade; the principal exports are coals, lead, lead-shot, wrought iron, grindstones, pottery, glass, &c. It is not distinguished by any staple manufactures; the principal are derived from, or connected with, the coal trade and mines; as ship-building, roperies, forges, founderies, cop-

peras, coal-tar, soda, white-lead, potteries, glass-works, &c. Under the heptarchy this county was part of the kingdom of Northumberland, which comprehended all the country between the two seas, north of the Humber to the Frith of Edinburgh. It was governed by earls till soon after the conquest, when it had a distinct sheriff, and was divided into baronies, and those again into wards. It is now included in the northern circuit, in the province of York, and in the diocese of Durham. The average scale of mortality in this county for 10 years appears to have been as one to $50\frac{1}{2}$ of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

We apprehend it had summons for knights of the shire in the 22d of Edward I., the time of the general writ to counties: but Mr. Prynne, in his list, takes notice of its first return in the 26th of that king.

Upon the death of the eldest son of the Earl of Bedford, Sir Francis Russell, his next brother, became eldest son; and a question arose, whether he was capable of continuing knight of the shire for this county.

Jan. 20, 1549. Whereupon it is ordered, that Sir Francis Russell, son and heir apparent of the now Earl of Bedford, shall abide in this House, in the state he was before.

April 9, 1614. Resolved upon the question: "That Sir George Selby, sheriff of Durham, cannot be chosen knight of the shire for Northumberland."

PETITIONS, &c. Jan. 7th, 1701. A petition of Bartram Stote, esq., was read, shewing that, at the election of members to serve in this Parliament for this county, Sir Francis Blake, the petitioner, and William Lorrain, esq., were candidates; and the petitioner was duly elected, and ought to have been returned, one of the knights of the shire for the said county; but many unqualified persons were permitted to poll against the petitioner; and, by the illegal practices of Mr. Lorrain and his agents, as also by the high-sheriff, Mr. Lorrain is unduly returned in prejudice of the petitioner.

No report appears.

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of William Ogle, of Cawsey park in this county, esq., was read, shewing that, at the last election for knights of the shire, to serve in this Parliament for this county, the Right Hon. Algernon, Earl of Hertford, Thomas Forster, esq., and the petitioner were candidates; that the agents of the said earl, by bribes, treats, and threats, procured many voices at the election, and thereby hindered and deterred many who would have voted for the petitioner; and by these means the said earl obtained a majority of the petitioner upon the poll books, and is returned in prejudice of the petitioner.

Feb. 17, 1711. Ordered: "That Mr. Ogle have leave to withdraw his said petition."

Jan. 10, 1715. Resolved: "That Thomas Forster, jun., esq., being taken in the rebellion, bearing arms against his majesty, be expelled this House."

March 5. A petition of Oley Douglass, esq.,

was read, shewing, that Francis Delaval, esq., and the petitioner, were candidates at the late election for this county, in the room of Thomas Forster, esq.; and that the said Frances Delaval is returned by the sheriff of the said county; although not duly qualified to be chosen or serve as a knight of the shire according to the intent and true meaning of a late act of parliament, intituled, “An act for securing the freedom of Parliament by the further qualifying of members to sit in the House of Commons;” that the petitioner being duly qualified at the time of the said election, ought to have been returned.

May 30, 1717. Resolved: “That Francis Delaval, esq., is duly elected a knight of the shire to serve in this present Parliament for this county.”

April 6, 1723. A petition of Ralph Jenison, esq., was read, shewing, that a writ having been lately ordered and issued for the electing of a knight of the shire to serve in Parliament for this county, in the room of the Right Hon. Algernon Seymour, commonly called Earl of Hertford, now Lord Piercy, called up to the House of Peers; the petitioner and William Wrightson, esq., were candidates at the said election: that the petitioner had the majority of legal votes; but the said Mr. Wrightson and his agents did, by bribery and other indirect practices, procure several persons to vote for the said Mr. Wrightson who were not qualified, and several persons who would have voted for the petitioner, to be absent, or to vote for the said Mr. Wrightson; that there appearing, in the poll-books to be a greater number

of votes for the said Mr. Wrightson than for the petitioner, by reason of such indirect ways and means as aforesaid, the said Mr. Wrightson hath been returned by the high-sheriff of the said county as duly elected, to the great wrong and injury of the petitioner.

April 16, 1724. Reported: "That the committee have examined the merits of the said election."

"That the poll was

For Mr. Wrightson997

The Petitioner963

Resolved: "That William Wrightson, esq., is not duly elected a knight of the shire to serve in the present Parliament for this county."

Resolved: "That Ralph Jenison, esq., is duly elected a knight of the shire to serve in this present Parliament for this county."

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The balance between aristocracy and independence is nearly even in this county. The interest of the Duke of Northumberland has been so powerful, as to return one of the members, and in 1774, he attempted to bring in both; in this he was opposed by Sir William Middleton, one of the late representatives, who, assisted by the independent yeomen and gentlemen, finally obtained a victory, and was accordingly seated.

Charles Grey, esq., afterwards Lord Viscount Howick, and now Earl Grey, represented this county in six successive Parliaments, and was succeeded in 1807 by Earl Percy, and on his

being summoned to the House of Peers, in 1812, Sir Charles Miles Lambert Monck, son of the late Sir William Middleton, was chosen.

This county lying on the borders of Scotland, whose inhabitants often made inroads into it, partly for conquest, and partly for pillage, it was at length found necessary to constitute particular governors to guard and defend the borders; and these were called lords of the East, West, and Middle Marches. At the same time, every man who possessed great wealth, found himself obliged to provide a castle for his own safety and defence.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

NEWCASTLE, or NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, is a borough and market-town in Castle ward, Northumberland, 14 miles from Durham, on the road to Edinburgh, 276 from London, by Durham, and 282 by Sunderland. It consists of four parishes, containing 3,162 houses and 28,366 inhabitants, viz. 12,369 males and 15,997 females, of whom 5,705 were returned as being employed in various trades, handicraft, and manufacture. Exclusive of the suburb of *Gateshead*, which may be reckoned a part thereof, being connected by the bridge over the Tyne, in a similar manner to the borough of Southwark to London, but situate in the county of Durham, and containing 1,037 houses and 8,597 inhabitants. Its ancient name is supposed to have been *Monkcester*, or the city of the monks, from the number of religious houses formerly here,

and which name it bore till the time of the Norman invasion, when it took the name of Newcastle, from a castle erected here by Robert, eldest son of William I., as a check upon the Scots. In the reign of Edward III. the town was surrounded by a strong wall more than two miles in circumference, it was defended by several towers and had seven gates. In 1135, it was taken by David I. king of Scotland, but was soon after restored to King Stephen, and in 1644 was taken by storm by the Scottish army, but the commander, Sir John Marley and part of the garrison still held out for King Charles, and withdrew to the castle, where they capitulated: whereupon the Parliament disfranchised the corporation, and ordered the mayor to be tried by a court-martial. There is a very valuable library belonging to the church of St. Nicholas, in a room built for the purpose, by Sir Walter Blackett. Several institutions also for the promotion of learning have been very successfully carried on, and it can boast a philosophical and medical society. The Exchange is a noble building, from which the wall of the town runs parallel with the river, leaving a spacious piece of ground before it, between the water and the wall, which being well wharfed up, forms as commodious a quay as any in England. The mayor has a handsome mansion-house, and an allowance of £600 per annum. The liberty of the corporation extends to the gate upon the bridge. The markets are on Tuesday and Saturday. Fairs, 12th of August, which continues till the 22d, and on the 29th of October, which continues till the 6th of November.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough has sent burgesses to Parliament from the 23d of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. March 30, 1715. A petition of James Clavering, esq., against William Wrightson, esq.

No determination.

Parl. 7. William Carr, esq., petitioned.

Parl. 9. William Carr and Matthew Ridley, esqrs., petitioned; the latter renewed his petition in sessions 2.

Parl. 14. Andrew Robinson Bowes, esq., petitioned against Sir John Trevelyan, bart., but the committee found the sitting member duly elected.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, and a sheriff.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

There is no resolution of the House of Commons respecting the right of election, but it is admitted to be in the corporation and free burgesses, resident and non-resident.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—2,500.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Sheriff.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The town, from its opulence and magnitude, is independent of political controul: if the right of election was in the inhabitant householders, paying taxes, and serving, or being liable to serve,

offices, the insupportable expense of bringing voters from all parts of the kingdom would be avoided, and the freedom of election would be better secured. The non-resident freeman would exercise the same right at the place of his residence; which at present he is not called upon above once in fifty years to do, owing to these insurmountable difficulties.

MORPETH.

MORPETH, a borough, market-town, and parish in Morpeth ward, west division, Northumberland, 15 miles from Newcastle, and 292 from London, on the north side of the river Wensbeck; containing 413 houses and 2,951 inhabitants, viz. 1,342 males, and 1,609 females, of whom 689 were employed in trade and manufacture, and 116 in agriculture. In the year 1215, this town was burnt by the inhabitants, out of revenge to King John. The market is on Wednesday, and is well supplied with live cattle. Fairs, Holy Thursday, and St. Magdalen's day.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

It was first represented in Parliament in 1553.

PETITIONS, &c. Feb. 7, 1620. A petition against the return of Alexander Nowell, esq.

— 8. Resolved: "That his return is void."

Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of Henry Lumley, esq., was read, shewing, that George Nicholls, esq., and the petitioner were duly chosen bur-

gesses to serve in this Parliament for this borough, yet one of the pretended bailiffs of the said borough had returned the said Mr. Nicholls, and Sir Henry Bellasyse, in prejudice of the petitioner's right.

March 9, 1696. Colonel Granville reported upon the said petition.

The poll was,

For Mr. Nicholls.....90

Sir Henry Bellasyse.....51

The Petitioner.....39

That Mr. Nicholls was agreed to be duly elected.

Resolved, "That Sir Henry Bellasyse is duly elected."

March 5, 1713. A petition of several free burgesses and freemen of this corporation town, against Alexander Douglass, esq., as guilty of notorious bribery.

No determination.

March 31, 1715. A petition of Oley Douglass was read; shewing, that Lord Morpeth, Lord Viscount Castlecomer, Thomas Renda, esq., and the petitioner were candidates at the election for Morpeth; that the said Lord Castlecomer procured himself to be elected and returned by several indirect practices, not only in getting the agents, and servants of the Earl of Carlisle to make use of his lordship's name and authority to command and influence the voters of the said corporation, but likewise in bribing, &c., and promising rewards to the burgesses or freemen of the said borough; and that several sons of freemen and se-

veral free burgesses having according to the usual custom legally demanded their freedom, and did severally tender their votes for the petitioner, but were rejected by the bailiffs.

April 20, 1716. Petition withdrawn.

Parl. 7. Robert Fenwick, esq., petitioned.

March 9, 1695. Resolved, "That the right of election is only in the Bailiffs and Free Burgesses.

Parl. 13. Francis Eyre, esq., petitioned, but the committee found the sitting members duly elected.

At the general election in 1774, Francis Eyre, esq., and Thomas Charles Bigge, esq., were candidates in opposition to the Hon. William Byron, who was cousin, and Peter Delme, esq., who was brother-in-law to the Earl of Carlisle. On the day of election, and after the close of the poll, these gentlemen having the majority of votes, agreeable to the poll taken by the bailiffs, the populace, by threats and violence, compelled the returning officers to sign a return of Mr. Eyre, instead of the Hon. William Byron, under a pretence that they had rejected many legal votes for Mr. Eyre, which would have given him a majority upon the poll. On the 6th of December following, Mr. Byron, and certain electors in his interest, presented two petitions to the House of Commons, complaining of the undue return of Mr. Eyre. A committee was chosen to try the same on the 24th of January following, and on the 27th of the same month, reported to the House,

“ That the honourable William Byron, the petitioner, ought to have been returned a burgess.”

At the same time an order was made,

“ That Francis Eyre, and the freemen and electors of the borough of Morpeth, in the county of Northumberland, be at liberty to petition this House, to question the election of the honourable William Byron, within fourteen days next, if they think fit.”

And, on Wednesday the 8th of February, a petition of Mr. Eyre was presented to the House, charging Mr. Byron and Mr. Delme directly with bribery, by themselves and agents ; and that, by the partiality of the returning officers, in rejecting the petitioner's votes, and by other corrupt and illegal practices, an apparent majority was procured for the sitting members.

A similar petition had previously been prepared by Mr. Bigge, and another by several aldermen and free burgesses of Morpeth, containing the same allegations.

These petitions were all ordered to be taken into consideration on the 12th of July.

The House being prorogued before that day, and the petitions not being renewed at the ensuing meeting of Parliament, no examination of their merits took place.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by two bailiffs, and seven aldermen, who are chosen annually out of the free burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 9, 1694. Is only in the Bailiffs and Free Burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—200.

RETURNING OFFICER—the two Bailiffs.

PATRONS—Earl of Carlisle and William Ord, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough was under the influence of the Earl of Carlisle who is lord of the manor, and has considerable estates in the neighbourhood, till the year 1802 when William Ord, esq., a gentleman who has also an extensive property near the town and who had been some years reviving an old family interest, his ancestors having represented it from the years 1741 to 1754, so far succeeded as to render it prudent to divide the political interest, and each to return a member.

The influence has been established here by letting the burgesses pastures at a small, or nominal rent, and keeping the number of freemen as low as possible by opposing difficulties to their admission, which nothing but an application to the court of King's Bench for a *mandamus* can remove. This was the principal ground of complaint in the petition of 1774, and remains a grievance still unredressed.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, a town, parish, and county of itself, although situated in Northumberland, on the borders of Scotland. It stands 30 miles north of Alnwick, and 340 from London, on the north side of the Tweed, almost close to the sea, and contains 930 houses, and 7,187 inhabitants, being 3,009 males and 4,178 females, of whom 974 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures. It is bounded on the north and east by a ditch, and on the west by high walls, fortified and planted with cannon, to which the river serves as a moat. The houses of Berwick are well built; the town-house is handsome, with a lofty turret, having eight bells, and the church is neat. The bridge over the Tweed has fifteen arches, and is 947 feet long. Berwick is not properly in this county, nor even in England, for in acts of parliament, and in briefs, it is always distinguished from England, as a town separate, both from this kingdom and Scotland. It formerly belonged to Scotland, and was the chief town of a county in that kingdom, still called Berwickshire, and was one of the four towns in which the convention of the royal boroughs of Scotland were held. It was first taken from the Scots by King Edward I., and has been ever since in the possession of the English. The language and laws of its inhabitants, are, however, a mixture of Scotch and English. It has had several charters, some of

which are as ancient as the reign of Henry V. It exports vast quantities of corn and eggs to London, and other ports, but the principal trade is in salmon, which is caught in the Tweed. It has a market on Saturday well supplied with all kinds of provision.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough being taken from the Scots the 24th of King Edward the First, has belonged to England ever since; and was incorporated by charter 2 Jac. I., which was confirmed by act of parliament.

The first return of burgesses to Parliament was in the time of King Henry the Eighth.

PETITIONS, &c. Dec. 7, 1640. It appears there was a contest, and that the election of Sir Edward Osborn for one of the burgesses is void.

Jan. 19, 1664. A petition of Thomas Gray, esq., was read; also a petition of divers of the aldermen and bailiff, on behalf of themselves and the major part of the burgesses.

Ordered, "That the mayor do, at his peril, make his return of the election by Saturday next come se'nnight."

Oct. 20, 1665. Petition of Mr. Grey renewed.

Nov. 22. Reported, That Mr. Collingwood was duly elected.

March 16, 1676. A petition of John Rushworth, esq., against Lord Viscount Dunblain.

No determination.

March 19, 1678. A petition of Daniel Collingwood, esq., against the return of Ralph Grey, esq. No report appears.

Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of Sir Francis Blake, knt., against the return of Samuel Ogle, esq., by means of many undue practices in admitting of illegal votes.

March 7, 1696. Colonel Granville reported, "That the right of election is in the Freemen of Berwick."

Resolved, "That Samuel Ogle, esq., is duly elected."

Feb. 15, 1722. The House took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the project commonly called the Hamburgh Lottery, and all other foreign lotteries, carrying on in the city of London.

Resolved, *nem. con.* "That it appears to this House, that John Lord Viscount Barrington, in the kingdom of Ireland, and a member of this House, has been notoriously guilty of promoting, abetting, and carrying on *the fraudulent undertaking, called the Hamburgh Lottery*;"—also

Resolved, *nem. con.* "That the said John Lord Barrington, for his said offence, be expelled this House."

Parl. 11. John Wilkes, esq., petitioned; and renewed it the 2d session, but on Feb. 5, 1756, withdrew his petition.

Imp. Parl. 2. Sir J. Callendar, and Daniel Ord, esq., petitioned March 6, 1803; the committee found it was a void election, but that the

petition was neither frivolous nor vexatious, and a new writ was ordered the following day.

ANECDOTE.

In the year 1768, Sir John Hussey Delaval, and Robert Paris Taylor, esq., were candidates to represent this town in Parliament, and had been fortunate enough to secure the major part of the resident freemen in their interest, some time previous to the election. The candidates, however, who were in opposition, canvassed, and obtained the promise of the votes of a great number of the non-resident freemen, who then lived in London, and agreed with a master of a ship, that he should hire another vessel, besides his own, and convey these men down to Berwick by water. Upon covenanting to do this, the commodore of the convoy received two hundred pounds.

Mr. Taylor, by whom we were favoured with this account, was then in town, and, by accident, heard of the transaction; upon which he immediately went in search of the admiral of this election cargo, whom he found. He soon perceived that this son of Neptune might, for a valuable consideration, be induced, not only to change his side, but also his course; and, for twice the sum which had been given him to land his troops at Berwick, he arrived safe, and deposited them on Norwegian territories. By this manœuvre, Lord Delaval and Mr. Taylor took possession of their seats without farther expense.

CORPORATION.

By charter of James I., 1602. Consists of a mayor, recorder, one alderman, and four bailiffs, chosen annually out of the burgesses at large.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 9, 1695. In the Freemen resident and non-resident.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and four Bailiffs.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This is one of the few places sending members to Parliament that is called an open borough, because it acknowledges no patron. The influence of government however is sufficiently powerful to decide in general the election in favor of those candidates whose interest is espoused by the treasury. This arises from the host of placemen now employed in the customs, excise, taxes, garrison, army, navy, and all the other departments of administration.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE is an inland county of England, bounded on the west by Derbyshire, on the north by Yorkshire, on the east by Lincolnshire, and on the south by Leicestershire, and is about 50 miles in length and 25 in breadth. It is divided into six wapentakes or hundreds, viz. Rushcliff, Bingham, and Newark, on the south side of the Trent; Basset Law, (subdivided into North and South Clay and Hatfield divisions,) Broxtow and Thurgarton, on the north of the Trent. The principal rivers of this county are the Trent, the Erewash, the Soar, and the Idle, together with some tributary streams. Besides these this county has an extensive canal navigation by means of the river Trent. The soil may be divided into three districts, viz. sand or gravel, clay, and lime-stone. Nottinghamshire furnishes various sorts of stone for building, coals, lime, and gypsum or plaister stone; the latter has been found in large quantities. This county is stated to contain 774 square statute miles, equal to 495,360 statute acres; the number of inhabitants on each square mile containing 640 acres is 181, and the total number of persons 140,094. It contains 25,611 inhabited houses, 30,081 families, 542 uninhabited houses, and 140,350 inhabitants, viz. 68,558 males, and 71,792 females, of whom 35,513 were returned as being employed in trade,

and 23,904 in agriculture. The amount of the poors' rate raised in the year 1803 was £63,209 being at the rate of 3s. 10d. in the pound. The amount of the assessment on which the property-tax was levied in 1806 was £1,160,655. The market-towns in this county are Nottingham, Newark, Mansfield, Bingham, Worksop, Tuxford, Ollerton, and Southwell. The commerce and manufactures of Nottinghamshire consist in the manufacture of stockings to a great extent; in malting, and in the brewing of ale for the foreign trade. The ancient royal forest of Sherwood, is in extent about 21 miles, and in breadth seven, eight, or nine miles, varying in different places. Nottinghamshire sends eight members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, and two each for Nottingham, Retford, and Newark. The glory of this county is the river Trent; it rises in Staffordshire and crossing that county and Derbyshire, enters Nottinghamshire at its south-western extremity, thence crossing obliquely to the east, runs along its whole eastern side, forming the boundary between it and Lincolnshire. During its whole course it is navigable, imparting fertility to a wide tract of meadows, and affording a ready conveyance not only to the produce of this county, but is the connecting medium of the whole canal navigation of England. Nottinghamshire formed a part of the territories of the Coritani, and afterwards of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia. It lies in the diocese and province of York, and is included in the midland circuit. The average scale of mortality for

10 years, appears to have been as one to fifty of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has sent members to Parliament from the first general summons of knights of the shires.

PETITIONS, &c. Oct. 23, 1702. The House taking notice that there is no return made by the high sheriff of this county,

Resolved, “That the said high sheriff is guilty of a breach of the privileges of this House, and that for his offence, in not making a return of his writ, he be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms.”

Nov. 4. A petition of William Burnell, esq., high-sheriff of this county, acknowledging his offence, for having incurred the displeasure of the House, and imparting the negligence adduced to Mr. Simon Jackson, his under-sheriff, who had undertaken to make the return.

6th, Ordered, “That Mr. Burnell the high-sheriff, be discharged out of custody,”—and further

Ordered, “That Mr. Simon Jackson, the under-sheriff of this county, for keeping back the return of the writ for electing members for the said county, be committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House.”

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county is entirely under the influence of the nobility; and the Duke of Portland, Duke of

Newcastle, Earl Manvers, and Lord Middleton, have for many years nominated the members. The Duke of Norfolk who possesses the magnificent seat of Worksop manor, and who has recently purchased the Shire Oaks estate, formerly belonging to Mr. Hewit, member for this county, in addition to his family estates at Worksop manor, must command a powerful interest. In addition to these, Mr. Sutton of Kelham, the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Lumley Savile of Rufford, Mr. Eyre of Grove, the Hon. Mr. Simpson of Babworth, and Mr. Chaworth of Ansley, have very extensive properties in Nottinghamshire. The nomination of its members is however tacitly acquiesced in.

NOTTINGHAM—TOWN.

NOTTINGHAM, the county town of Nottinghamshire, in the hundred of Broxtow, 13 miles from Mansfield, and 124 from London ; consists of three parishes, containing 4,977 houses, inhabited by 28,862 persons, viz. 13,729 males and 15,131 females, of whom 11,698 were returned as being employed in trade, manufacture, and handicraft, and 267 in agriculture. Dr. Stukeley observes, that Nottingham seems to be as ancient as the time of the Britons ; for as soon, says he, as they had proper tools, they fell to work upon the rocks, which every where offered themselves so commodiously for affording them places of retirement and shelter ; and Dr. Deering observes, that these works were probably performed long before the

arrival of the Romans. Indeed, the whole town is, in a manner, undermined with caverns of an amazing depth and extent ; so that it is even questioned, whether all the buildings on the surface of the rock would fill up the vacancies underneath. Hence the cellars cut in the rocks, are frequently as deep as the highest houses ; and in digging for foundations of new houses there have been discovered spacious caverns, before unknown ; some of these are said to have been arched, in a regular manner, to have been supported by columns, and to have had a communication with each other, by passages leading to very distant parts. It is universally allowed, that the Cornish Britons were skilled in mining, before the arrival of the Romans ; but whether these subterraneous works are of so ancient a date, it is impossible to determine. Dr. Deering supposes, from the Gothic order observable in these structures, that they were formed during the heptarchy, when the Danes, who were pagans, made frequent inroads into this part of the kingdom, and intended as places of refuge, to which they might betake themselves in time of danger, and exercise their religious functions, without being exposed to the fury of those persecuting idolaters. The streets are broad, open, and well paved ; and there are three parish churches here, St. Mary's, St. Peter's, and St. Nicholas's. The market place is one of the handsomest and largest in England. This town is considered as one of the principal seats of the stocking manufacture, chiefly of the finer kinds

of silk and cotton, the cotton for which is spun by machinery, worked by water, and it has a considerable export trade to America and the West Indies. The market is on Wednesday and Saturday, and is always well supplied. Fairs, first Friday after 13th January, 7th May, Thursday before Easter, and on 2d October, which last continues nine days.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town has sent members to Parliament from the earliest period.

PETITIONS, &c. June 9, 1660. Resolved, "That John Hutchinson, esq., one of the judges of the late king's majesty, be discharged from being a member of this House.

Dec. 20, 1699. A petition of George Gregory, esq., against the return of Robert Sacheverell, esq., by means of many illegal practices to obtain votes.

No determination.

March 9, 1700. A petition of Thomas Hawksley, and Roger Hunt, overseers of the poor, shewing, that at the request of George Gregory, esq., petitioner, against Robert Sacheverell, esq., the sitting member, and pursuant to an order from the committee of privileges and elections, with the several books of the poors' rates of the said town, attended the said committee from the 26th of February last, to the present time; notwithstanding which, the said Mr. Gregory refuses to pay them their reasonable charges in coming to town,

their expenses here, and returning home, the petitioners being poor men, and not having wherewith to subsist, &c., &c.

Ordered, “ That the said Mr. Gregory do pay the petitioners their reasonable charges, to be settled by the chairman of the said committee.”

N. B. We do not find any report upon this petition.

Feb. 14, 1700. A petition of Robert Sacheverell, esq., against the return of George Gregory, esq., by means of many corrupt and illegal practices being used to defeat the petitioner's election, by Messrs. Cook and Bilby the sheriffs, Samuel Watkinson, esq., the mayor, and several other persons.

June 10. Sir Rowland Gwynn reported, “ That the right of election was agreed to be in the Mayor, Freemen, and Freeholders of forty shillings yearly.”

It was also agreed, “ That the eldest sons of freemen, by their birth, and the youngest sons of freemen, who have served seven years' apprenticeship, whether in Nottingham, or elsewhere, and also persons who have served seven years to any freemen of this town, were well entitled to demand their freedom.”

That upon the poll, there were,

For Mr. Gregory.....558

The Petitioner.....534

After hearing counsel and evidence on both sides at considerable length, the committee resolved,

“ That George Gregory, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That Robert Sacheverell, esq., is duly elected a Burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough.”

The said resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House, and the clerk of the crown was ordered to amend the return.

Imp. Parl. 2. Daniel Parker Coke, esq., and several of the inhabitants, petitioned. The committee found that Joseph Birch, esq., was not duly elected; also that Daniel Parker Coke, esq., was not duly elected; and that neither the petitions nor the opposition made to them were frivolous or vexatious, but that the conduct of the mayor, and several of the aldermen, and other electors, was extremely illegal and oppressive; and the chairman moved the House, that no new writ be issued until the conduct of the mayor and others be examined into, and that the proceedings of the committee be printed for the use of the members of the House, March 14, 1803; to which the House agreed. A new writ was ordered May 20, 1803.

——. Mr. Coke and several of the electors petitioned.

Imp. Parl. 3. Several of the voters petitioned against the election of John Smith and Daniel Parker Coke, esqrs. Ordered to be tried Jan. 22, 1807.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, six aldermen, and 24 common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 3,500.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Sheriffs.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The political character of this town is in direct opposition to the patient submission of the county. No place has struggled with more zeal to establish its independence; and that zeal, owing to the opposition it has encountered from the ministerial party, has upon one occasion burst into violence. At the general election in 1802, Sir John Borlase Warren and Daniel Parker Coke, esq., were the ministerial candidates, and no other appearing, some of the electors proposed Joseph Birch, esq., of Hazle Hall, in the county of Lancaster, which, after a long and severe contest, ended in the return of that gentleman and Sir G. B. Warren to Parliament. Mr. Coke petitioned against this return, the principal ground of which was the rioting that took place during the election; and it was also proved, that Mr. Coke's committee applied to the mayor to call in the military, who were stationed at the distance of two miles from the town, to quell them; that Mr. Birch protested against such a measure; that in fact the mayor ordered the military into the town, but on their arrival stopped the poll, which was not resumed till it was thought that quiet was so far restored as to admit of their being sent away again.

The mayor certainly acted with strict legal and

constitutional propriety, in stopping the poll while the military remained in the town ; our ancestors having wisely provided that they shall not be within two miles of any place of election, their presence having a greater tendency to subvert the freedom of election than the excess of popular enthusiasm.

The committee, on the 15th of March, determined the election to be void. The minutes were printed by order of the House, and the issuing of a new writ was delayed till after the passing of a bill, by which an authority is given to the magistrates of the county of Nottingham to preserve the peace in the town during the time of elections. It received the royal assent on the 17th of May. The proceedings of the House upon this matter, and the several petitions presented against the bill, will be found in the Journals, from the 20th April to the 17th May, 1803.

A criminal information was moved for in the court of King's Bench, in Easter term, 43 George III., against the magistrates and members of the corporation upon this ground ; that certain petitions having been presented to Parliament, complaining of the misconduct of some of the defendants, the defendants had, in their official capacity, and out of the funds of the corporation, defrayed the expense of the defence. Upon cause being shewn, the court discharged the rule ; being of opinion that no criminal purpose was shewn ; and that, considering how deeply interested the corporation might eventually be in the decision of the committee, their conduct was justifiable.

At the last general election, in 1812, the town made a final and successful attempt to establish its independence. The candidates were, John Smith, esq., Lord Rancliffe, and Richard Arkwright, esq. After a poll of fifteen days, the numbers were as follow—

John Smith, esq. 2013

Lord Rancliffe 1515

Richard Arkwright, esq. 1239

The last gentleman stood on the ministerial interest; and being defeated here, was afterwards returned for the Treasury borough of Rye, in Sussex, where there are only four voters.

NEWARK.

NEWARK, a borough, market-town, and parish in the hundred of Newark, Notts, situated on the river Trent, 14 miles from Grantham, 124 from London, by Hatfield, and 122 by Ware; containing 1,376 houses and 6,730 inhabitants, viz. 3,098 males and 3,632 females, of whom 931 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures. Here is an extensive sacking manufactory, but its chief trade is in malting. Limestone abounds within a mile of the town, particularly from an eminence called Bacon Hill, and at the depth of 20 feet from its surface is found a curious stone, which is burned upon the brick kilns, and afterwards ground into a fine powder, and sent in barrels into a more distant part, as a composition for stucco works and ornaments for

ceilings. The market is on Wednesday. Fairs, that called Careing fair, on the Friday before Careing Sunday, which is the Sunday fortnight before Easter, 14th May, Whit Tuesday, 2d August, 1st November, and Monday before 11th December, and of late a cheese fair is held on the 25th of September.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This is the most modern parliamentary borough in England, being so created and incorporated by King Charles II., in the 29th year of his reign, on account of its loyalty to King Charles I. Its first election was before its incorporation, and became the subject of a petition to the House of Commons.

PETITIONS, &c. April 17, 1765. A petition of Mr. Saville and Sir Paul Neville, returned burgesses for this borough, was read.

May 10. A petition of John Girton, Francis Cheetem of Newark, Thomas Wright of Balderton, John Bell of Coddington, John Clerk of Winthorp, in the county of Notts, on behalf of themselves, and the most of the gentlemen, freemen, freeholders, and copyholders of these several towns was read, complaining of undue means and practices in obtaining a charter for sending two burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough.

Resolved: "That by virtue of the charter granted to this town, it hath right to send burgesses to Parliament."

Resolved: "That Mr. Saville and Sir Paul Neville are not duly returned to serve in this Par-

liament for this borough ; and a new writ was ordered.

Resolved : “ That the petition of Peniston Whalley, esq., complaining of an undue return of a burgess for this borough, did not come in due time, according to the orders of the House: whereto the House agreed.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of John Rayner, esq., was read, shewing, that the petitioner was duly chosen a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough, but that many illegal practices were used by Edward Hobson, mayor of the said town, and others, in favour Sir Francis Mollineux, who polled several for him that were not qualified, and refused several that were qualified, who would have voted for the petitioner.

They also complained of partiality in the mayor, town-clerk, and others concerned in the election. That it was admitted, that by the charter, which gives the town the right of sending members to Parliament, the right was in the inhabitants paying, and which ought to pay, scot and lot.

Snow said, the mayor at the election took him by the hand, and told him he was glad to see him, he having promised to vote for “ Sir Francis Mollineux:” but after he declared he voted for Mr. Rayner, the mayor said he had no vote, and bid the officers turn him down.

Resolved : “ That Sir Francis Mollineux, bart., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for the said borough.”

Resolved : “ That John Rayner, esq., is duly

elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for the said borough."

Resolved: "That the mayor, aldermen, and all the Inhabitants within this borough, who pay, or ought to pay, scot and lot within the said borough, have a right to vote at the election of members to serve in Parliament for the said borough."

Ordered: "That Edward Hobson, late mayor of this borough, for his irregular proceedings at the election for the said borough, be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House."

Feb. 14, 1700. A petition of James Saunderson, esq., was read, shewing, that the petitioner stood a candidate with Sir George Markham, to serve as a burgess in this present Parliament for this borough: at which election divers persons were allowed to vote for Sir George Markham who were not qualified, and many who were qualified were refused to vote for the petitioner.

No determination.

Jan. 3, 1701. A petition of John Rayner, esq., against Sir Matthew Jennison.

No determination.

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Richard Sutton, esq., against Richard Newdigate.

No determination.

March 30, 1715. A petition of Richard Newdigate, esq., against the Hon. Brigadier Richard Sutton and the Hon. Conyers Darcy, esq.

No determination.

Nov. 25, 1790. William Paxton, esq., peti-

tioned on the 2d March, 1791. The chairman of the committee that tried this contested election reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected; and that they found the right of voting for members to serve in Parliament for the borough of Newark, in the county of Nottingham, to be in the mayor, aldermen, and all the inhabitants paying scot and lot within the said borough.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, 12 aldermen, and 12 assistants.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In all the inhabitants paying scot and lot. Nov. 25, 1791.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—700.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRONS—Duke of Newcastle and Lord Middleton.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

Though this is so large a town, containing near 7,000 inhabitants, it is absolutely dependent in the choice of its members. The Duke of Newcastle, Lord Middleton, John Sutton, esq., of Kelham, and Sir Jennison Gordon are proprietors of the greatest part of the borough, and the nomination of its members is left to the two former.

Sir William Paxton made a powerful opposition to this phalanx in 1790, and again in 1796, but without final success.

The House of Commons, in 1699, came to a re-

solution, that all who paid, or *ought* to pay, scot and lot, had a right to vote at elections of members of Parliament; but a contrary one has since been passed in 1791, which states the right to be in the mayor, aldermen, and inhabitants paying scot and lot. In this resolution, the words "ought to pay," are omitted.

This last resolution confirms the influence of the patrons, as the magistrates and the overseers of the poor are sure to be in their interest, and have the power of making poor's rates to a certain degree conformable to their wishes; but upon what principle of justice the right of election in 1791 should be declared different to what it was in 1699, we are at a loss to conjecture.

EAST RETFORD.

EAST RETFORD, a borough, market-town, and parish, in the hundred of Bassetlaw, Notts, situated near the river Idle, seven miles from Tuxford, and 145 from London; containing 421 houses and 1,948 inhabitants. Its market is on Saturday, and is well supplied with hops, corn, malt, and provisions: and its fairs are, 23rd March and 2d October.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

It first sent members to Parliament in the 9th of Edward II., but never returned after until the 13th of Queen Elizabeth, when it became again summoned, though its right was questioned.

PETITIONS, &c. April 6, 1571. Mr. Treasurer and others were appointed to confer with Mr. Attorney and Mr. Solicitor, concerning the return of burgesses for this and other boroughs.

Feb. 13, 1700. A petition of Sir Willoughby Hickman, bart., shewing that he, with John Thornhaugh and Thomas White, esqrs., were candidates; that petitioner desired of Edward Jackson and William Peet, the bailiffs, either that himself, or some of his friends, might be admitted into the place of election, to see that the election was fairly made, but which was refused; and that before the election the said bailiffs disfranchised several persons, and at the time refused others to come into the chamber who had demanded to vote for the petitioner, but admitted others to vote for Mr. White who were not qualified; and further, that the said bailiffs and Mr. White used many other undue practices, whereby the said Mr. White is unduly returned.

April 15, 1701. Sir Rowland Gwynn reported, That the first question was the right of election.

The petitioner's counsel insisting, that the right was in the burgesses, being freemen, at large.

The sitting member's counsel insisting, that the right was only in the freemen resident in the borough.

Upon the poll the numbers were—

For the petitioner17

Mr. White24

Resolved: "That the right of electing members to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the

burgesses *non-resident* as well as in those resident within the borough."

"That Thomas White, esq., is not duly elected."

"That it is the opinion of the committee that Sir Willoughby Hickman, bart., is duly elected a burgess for this borough.

The three resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Jan. 3, 1702. A petition of Sir Willoughby Hickman, bart., and William Levintz, esq., against the return of John Thornhaugh and Thomas White, esqrs., by means of the bailiffs refusing to poll several persons to vote for the petitioners, who were adjudged by the last Parliament as being duly qualified, and upon which one of the petitioners (Sir Willoughby Hickman) was by that Parliament declared duly elected; and the petitioners had a majority not only of those votes, but also of others, and ought to have been returned.

March 17. Sir Rowland Gwynn reported, "That the right of election was agreed to be in the freemen or burgesses;" but the question was, *whether the younger sons of freemen* had a right to demand their freedom?

For the petitioners it was insisted they had such right.

For the sitting members it was insisted they had no such right.

The committee resolved: "That the younger sons of the freemen of this borough *have not a right to demand their freedom of this borough.*"

"That John Thornhaugh and Thomas White,

esqrs., are duly elected burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough."

These resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Oct. 26. A petition of Sir Willoughby Hickman, bart., and William Levintz, esq., against the return of John Thornhaugh and Thomas White, esqrs., by means of the bailiffs exercising an arbitrary and illegal power, in admitting several persons to be made free, contrary to the rights and customs of the borough, and refusing to enter on the poll several persons who had a right to vote for the petitioners.

Nov. 28. Mr. Bromley reported from the committee, "That the right of election was agreed to be in the bailiffs and burgesses;"—but they did not agree how they were qualified to be burgesses.

For the petitioners it was insisted none ought to be made free of this borough but the sons of freemen, and such as had served seven years' apprenticeship; and that the *younger* as well as the *elder* sons of freemen, and such as had served apprenticeship within the borough, had a right to their freedom; and others living within the borough (but not foreigners) might be made free by redemption.

For the sitting members it was insisted, that the eldest sons of freemen only, and such as had served seven years' apprenticeship within the borough, had a right to demand their freedom; but that the corporation had a power to make whom they pleased free, as well those who lived without

as those who lived within the borough, if they should think fit.

The committee resolved,

“That all the sons of freemen of this borough have a right to their freedom of this borough.”

“That John Thornhaugh and Thomas White, esqrs., are not duly elected.”

“That Sir Willoughby Hickman, bart., and William Levintz, esq., are duly elected to serve in Parliament for this borough.”

The several resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Sir Hardolph Westneys, bart., and Robert Molesworth, esq., against the return of Sir Willoughby Hickman, bart., and William Levintz, esq.

— 14. The House doubting whether the above petition was regularly signed, and to prevent any objection touching it, another petition was signed by them and presented, and read in substance with the former.

Jan. 17, 1706. Mr. Compton reported, “That the right of election was agreed to be in the bailiffs and burgesses, or freemen.” The points were, 1st. Who had a right to the freedom? 2d. What power the corporation has to make persons, living out of the borough, free by redemption?

The petitioners’ counsel insisted, 1st. that all persons having served seven years’ apprenticeship within the borough, and the elder sons of freemen, had a right to their freedom; 2d. that the corporation had a power to make any person free, whether they inhabited in the borough or not.

For the sitting members it was insisted, 1st. that all, as well the younger as the elder sons of freemen, had a right to their freedom; 2d. that such person as had no right to their freedom could not be made free, except they were inhabitants within the borough.

The petitioners' counsel also insisted that this is a corporation by prescription, which was admitted on the other side.

To prove the custom of the borough making foreigners free, they produced an ordinance of the 1st of Sep., 6 Jac. I. viz.

“It is ordered, established and decreed, that all
“and every such as shall be made free within the
“town by redemption, shall compound and agree
“with Mr. Bailiffs, and the aldermen of the town
“for their freedom, and that no foreigner shall be
“made free by redemption under 20s. to be paid to
“the town's chamber, 20*d.* to Mr. Bailiff, 20*d.* to
“the chamberlain's, 12*d.* to the deputy steward
“or town clerk, 8*d.* to the sergeant at mace, and
“12*d.* to the relief of the poor, and that at the
“next court, after the said freedom granted, the
“party shall be brought in by the chamberlains,
“and there take the oath appointed for that purpose.” Also another ordinance made in 1624,—
“for disabling the burgesses to vote at any election or elections whatsoever within the borough,
“who shall remove his dwelling out of the borough, and continue so for one whole year, provided in case, he did return again, and live within
“the borough, he should vote, while he lived
“therein.”

The committee resolved:

“ That the right of electing burgesses, to serve in Parliament for this borough, is in such freemen only, as have a right to their freedom by birth, as eldest sons of freemen, or by serving seven years’ apprenticeship, or have it by redemption, whether inhabiting or not inhabiting, in the said borough, at the time of their being made free.”

“ That Sir Willoughby Hickman, bart., and William Leventz, esq., are not duly elected.”

“ That Sir Hardolph Westeney, bart., and Robert Molesworth, esq., are duly elected burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough.”

The first resolution being read a second time, an amendment was proposed to leave out the words “ *whether inhabiting or not inhabiting,*” and insert in lieu thereof “ *being inhabitants within ;*” but disagreed to ; and the resolutions adopted by the committee, were agreed to by the House, and the return ordered to be amended.

Feb. 15, 1708. A petition of the senior bailiff, and burgesses, shewing that the bailiff for the time being by the ancient charters of the corporation, are, every three weeks to keep a court of record, for determining causes ; that on Michaelmas day, the bailiffs enter upon their office and at the same time the keys where the charters and records are kept, and the corporation books, are, and ought to be delivered over to the senior bailiff, but William Jessop, esq., a member of this House, and recorder of the said corporation, has got possession of the charters and corporation books, and refused to deliver them up, and has displaced his late deputy, without appointing another for keeping the court

of record there; and as the petitioners have no claim at law, praying they may be redressed by the House.

Ordered: "That this petition be *rejected*."

Dec. 1, 1710. A petition of Willoughby Hickman and Brian Cook, esqrs., against the return of Thomas White and Thomas Westby, esqrs., by means of many undue practices of the bailiffs of this borough at the election.

Jan. 11, 1711. Mr. Freeman reported the matter. The right of election was agreed to be in the bailiffs and burgesses, and that a person is qualified to be a burgess of this borough who has served seven years' apprenticeship within this borough, or is the eldest son of such a burgess, or is made free by redemption, inhabiting within the borough at the time of his being made free. And the question was, Whether persons, not being inhabitants within the borough, can be made free, and vote in elections to Parliament?

The sitting members alleged they might, but the petitioners insisted on the contrary.

The committee resolved,

"That the right of electing burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in such freemen only as have a right to their freedom by birth, as eldest sons of freemen, or by serving seven years' apprenticeship, or by redemption, inhabiting in the said borough at the time of their being made free."

"That Thomas White and Thomas Westby, esqrs., are not duly elected."

"That Willoughby Hickman and Brian Cook,

esqrs., are duly elected burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough."

The said resolutions being read twice, were agreed to by the House, and the return ordered to be amended.

Parl. 9, 1741. Sir Robert Clifton, bart., and K. B. and Stephen Soame, esq., petitioned.

May 19, 1803. William Bowles, jun., and Henry Bouham, esqrs., petitioned. The chairman of the committee reported, that the sitting members were duly elected, and that the petition was not frivolous nor vexatious.

The above petition was grounded on a charge against John Thornton and George Barker, who had usurped the office of bailiffs, held a court on the morning of election, and illegally admitted several to their freedom who had no right, and rejected several who had a right, and who claimed to be admitted: that informations in the nature of *quo warranto* had been filed against the said pretended bailiffs long before the election, and judgment of *ouster* since obtained against them; that they had been guilty of corruption and partiality in favour of the sitting members; and also that the sitting members themselves, and by their agents, had been guilty of bribery and treating.

CORPORATION.

This consists of 12 aldermen, from whom the *senior* bailiff must be annually chosen; and the *junior* bailiff from amongst the freemen, who is an alderman during his year of office, making the whole number 13.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—160.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the two Bailiffs.

PATRON—the Duke of Newcastle.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

It appears by the Journals of the House of Commons, that the committees of that House have been occupied no less than *seven times* for several weeks together, within the last century, in determining what constitutes a freeman in this little borough, and have left it at last as much open to contention and litigation as they found it. It is not yet decided whether the son of a freeman born *out of the borough* has an equal right to be admitted with the son of a freeman born *in the borough*, upon a claim of birth-right, nor whether the *apprentice to a journeyman shoemaker*, which description of persons constitutes a majority of the electors, has the same right to his freedom as the apprentice to a *master shoemaker*, upon a claim of servitude.

The court of King's Bench has been occupied nearly as much as the House of Commons, on *mandamus* motions, and informations in the nature of *quo warranto*, which have compelled the corporation to admit a dozen freemen at a time, who have been arbitrarily kept out of their right, and ousted five aldermen and forty freemen at once who have been illegally admitted.

This corporation has been under the influence

of the Newcastle family, and the three last dukes of that name have been successively high steward. The first effort at independence was made by the freemen in 1768, who invited the late Sir Cecil Wray, a neighbouring country gentleman, and a member of the Bill of Rights' Society to represent them, and he was unanimously returned, in opposition to the Duke of Newcastle and the corporation.

The late Sir Wharton Amcotts was chosen on the same interest from 1772 till the general election in 1790.

Major Cartwright was invited by a part of the corporation, and a great majority of the freemen, to represent this borough at the above period; and if he had accepted the invitation, would have been at the head of the poll, as about three-fourths of the electors had engaged to give him their votes; but his conscientious regard to the rights of the people, who he considered to be nine parts in ten, deprived him of all share in the representation, would not suffer him to take a seat in a Parliament that did not fairly represent, and was not freely chosen by, the whole country.

Sir John Ingleby was then returned upon the interest that supported Major Cartwright.

At the next general election, in 1796, William Petrie, esq., and Sir Wharton Amcotts were candidates on the independent interest, and John Blackburne, esq., was proposed by the Duke of Newcastle, when the former party, for the first time, had the triumph of returning both members; the numbers on the poll being as follow :

For William Petrie, esq.82

Sir Wharton Amcotts68

John Blackburne, esq.60

After this defeat, the corporation had recourse to a new expedient to restore the influence of the high steward and patron. Thirty-eight honorary freemen were made by the bailiffs and aldermen, to create a majority in favour of the Duke against a future election.

This violent measure led to a long and expensive law-suit. William Bowles, esq., an eminent banker in Lombard-street, became the champion of the independent party, who to a man engaged to support him upon any future vacancy, as did most of the freemen in the interest of the Duke of Newcastle, to whom this measure was equally objectionable; the bailiff, aldermen, and leet juries being all selected from this new body of freemen, while those who alone had the legal right to those situations were totally overlooked, and treated with contempt.

Mr. Bowles brought the question respecting the power of the bailiffs and aldermen to make these honorary freemen, by *quo warranto*, into the court of King's Bench, where they were all determined to be illegal, and judgment of ouster issued against five aldermen, and the whole body of honorary freemen.

So successful a struggle for the rights of the legal freemen any one conceived would establish him in their hearts for ever, and that they would manifest their gratitude at the ensuing election by returning him unanimously to Parliament;

but such was the depravity of some of these people, that no less than forty-five, who had promised him their support, broke their words, and voted for the candidates proposed by the very man who had procured the honorary freemen to be made, one of whom had never been heard of at Retford till the morning of the election, and has never been seen by any of them since. We lament that we cannot at this time furnish a list of their names, as a beacon to warn future candidates from becoming a prey to such fraud and treachery.

The numbers on the poll at this election in 1802 were—

For Robert Crawford, esq.	85
John Jaffray, esq.	77
William Bowles, esq.	65
Henry Bonham, esq.	59

The two first were proposed by the Duke of Newcastle; Mr. Bonham was the friend of Mr. Bowles.

Mr. Jaffray was a stranger to the people of Retford, soon after became a bankrupt, and has not been heard of since.

This contest produced as much corruption as ever disgraced the history of an election; the price of votes here has been for the last sixty years forty guineas a man, but upon this occasion one hundred and fifty were given,

A petition was presented to Parliament by Mr. Bowles and Mr. Bonham against this return, on the ground of gross partiality in the returning officers, and bribery and treating on the part of the sitting members.

The committee determined, that they should

give evidence of agency in the first instance before they proceeded to prove the bribery.

Letters from the Duchess of Newcastle and Colonel Crauford were then produced to prove the agency, but the committee decided that they should not be read.

It was proved that Colonel Charles Crauford, the husband of the Duchess of Newcastle, had proposed himself as a candidate for the borough, and had continued his canvass till 29th June, 1802, when he gave it up on account of his ill health, and his brother, the sitting member, was proposed in his stead. It sufficiently appeared, and was proved, that the interest of both these gentlemen was the same; that the same persons continued to act after Colonel C. Crauford had retired; the same colours and flags were used, and the same houses resorted to.

The counsel for the petitioners having advised their clients, on the decision upon the evidence to prove agency, to abandon their claim, the committee declared the sitting members duly elected.

The Duke of Newcastle had now the entire command of this borough till 1807, when Sir William Ingleby was chosen in opposition to his Grace's nominee.

In 1812, the freemen entered into a resolution to shake off the yoke of patronage, but they could procure no candidates. In this dilemma, a deputation was sent off to Earl Fitzwilliam, at Wentworth House, to request his lordship to recommend a gentleman. Agreeably to this invitation, he recommended George Osbaldeston, esq., of

Hutton Bushell, in Yorkshire; on the return of the deputation, they found a gentleman of the name of Marsh, a perfect stranger to every person in Retford, but attended by two London attorneys, who had arrived, and offered himself a candidate. They immediately adopted this gentleman, in conjunction with Mr. Osbaldeston; but an unlucky report was shortly after spread, that he was an adventurer, and had hired a carriage and a servant to make a shew at the election. This gained such a rapid circulation, and obtained such a general belief, that it became necessary to certify his pretensions, and prove that his rank and situation in life qualified him to aspire to the honour of representing them in Parliament. In this painful situation, he sent off a deputation of three persons, in a chaise and four to York, a distance of fifty-five miles, to enquire of the Hon. Laurence Dundas, member for that city, to whom he stated himself to be known, whether he was the person he described himself to be. This unfavourable rumour originated principally in the indiscretion of one of his own agents, a London attorney, who had boasted to several of the voters that his employer had ten thousand pounds in the house of Coutts and Co., and that he had brought down a letter of credit to the Retford Bank to that amount. This report the Retford Bank thought it their duty publicly to contradict. In the midst of the confusion occasioned by this strange occurrence, and a paper war going on between Mr. Marsh and the town-clerk, who affected to believe every thing that had been said to his prejudice. Mr. Osbaldeston

wanted to take the advantage of the moment, and propose an old school-fellow as the second candidate; but the writer of this narrative, who proposed complimenting Lord Fitzwilliam with the nomination of a member, and brought Mr. Osbaldeston to Retford, positively refused to acquiesce in such a measure till Mr. Marsh had an opportunity of vindicating his character, which he did, upon the return of the deputation from York, to the satisfaction of all the electors.

Mr. Osbaldeston and Mr. Marsh were thereupon unanimously elected members for Retford; the first, through the immediate and personal introduction of the author of this work, Mr. Osbaldeston being a perfect stranger to the electors, and even his name unknown to any of them; Mr. Marsh was no less indebted to the author for preventing a second candidate from being named, in which case the Newcastle party would have joined the supporters of Mr. Osbaldeston, and left Mr. Marsh in a feeble minority indeed. It may create some surprise in our readers to acquire a knowledge of the gratitude displayed by these new members of Parliament upon this occasion. The author has never seen nor heard from either of them from that day to the present: nor has Mr. Osbaldeston reimbursed him one shilling of the expenses he incurred upon that occasion, although he expended above one hundred pounds within his knowledge, and under his own eye; and more than two years and a half have expired since these claims have existed.

The people at Retford have not been more fortunate: by the last accounts we received from that

place, the bills incurred at the last election had not been paid. We forbear all animadversion upon this conduct, satisfying ourselves with a relation of facts, and leaving the public to form their own conclusions.

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORDSHIRE is an inland county of England, bounded on the north by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, on the east by Buckinghamshire, on the south by Berkshire, and on the west by Gloucestershire. In shape it is very irregular, and extends in length about 48 miles, and in breadth 26; containing 450,000 acres of land, having about 150,000 acres arable, and 230,000 in pasturage, the remainder being uncultivated wastes and woodlands. It is divided into 14 hundreds, viz. Bampton, Banbury, Binfield, Bloxham, Bullington, Chadlington, Dorchester, Ewelme, Langtree, Lewknor, Pirton, Ploughley, Thame, and Wootton, having one city and university, two boroughs Banbury and Woodstock, and ten market-towns, viz. Bampton, Bicester, Burford, Chipping-Norton, Deddington, Henley, Islip, Thame, Watlington, and Witney; the whole county contains 207 parishes, 20,599 houses, inhabited by 109,620 persons, viz. 53,786 males and 55,834 females, of whom 16,346 were returned as

being employed in trade, manufacture, or handicraft, and 33,109 in agriculture. The principal rivers are the Tame and Isis, forming one stream, anciently called the Thamesis, and the boundary between Berkshire and this county. The Isis an inconsiderable stream rising in Buckinghamshire, joins the Thames at Dorchester, the Cherwell rising in Northamptonshire falls into the Isis at Oxford. The Evenlode rising in Worcestershire and into the Isis about six miles above Oxford, and the Windrush rising in the Cotswold hills in Gloucestershire also joins the same river about five miles west of Oxford. The principal manufactures are those of blankets at Witney, shag at Banbury, and gloves and polished steel at Woodstock, and the employment of the poorer class is lace-making and spinning. Two of the greater Roman roads run through this county. The Icknild-street enters it at Goring from Berks, and passes north north-east to Bucks, about six miles south-east of Thame; and the Akeman-street, a consular crosses the county to Burford. Besides these there are several vicinal ways, the crest of one of which is seen pointing toward Otmoor, on the London road, about a mile on this side Hedington. Oxfordshire was anciently inhabited by the Dobuni, and the Romans annexed it to the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the heptarchy it belonged to Mercia, and is now included in the Oxford circuit, diocese of Oxford, and province of Canterbury. It sends nine members to Parliament. The gross amount of the assessment under the property-tax for 1806, was £1,217,133. The

amount of money raised for the maintenance of the poor in 1803, was £103,559, at the rate of 4s. 8d. in the pound, and the average of deaths for ten years appears to have been as one to 51 of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county was formerly under one sheriff with Berkshire. It was summoned on the 22d Edward the First, and from that time has returned members to Parliament. In the 22d of Edward the First, the sheriff returned two knights of the shire, and two burgesses for Oxon: and in the 28th year of that reign, to this county, the sheriff added the knights for Berks, though not directed by his writ, and the 18th of Edward the Third, he returned for both counties in one indenture.

PETITION. April 14, 1663. A petition of Sir William Walter, against —— Knollys, esq.

No determination.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county is remarkable for having had the last great contest between the whig and tory factions, which happened at the general election in 1754, and first brought the famous Mr. Charles Jenkinson, who afterwards became Earl of Liverpool into court favour and public notice, and procured him at first the humble situation of a clerk in the treasury, from whence he rose by a regular gradation in 1762 to be private secretary to Lord Bute, in 1763 to be secretary to the treasury in the administration, of Mr. George Grenville, grand-

father to the present Marquis of Buckingham; in 1766 a lord of the admiralty under the administration of the Duke of Grafton; in 1767 a lord of the treasury under the same nobleman; in 1778 secretary at war under Lord North; in 1786 created Lord Hawkesbury, and made chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster by Mr. Pitt; in 1790 first lord of trade and plantations under the same minister; in 1796 Earl of Liverpool, beside holding for many years the sinecure place of collector of the customs in the port of London, worth six thousand pounds per annum, and at last retired from office with the addition of an enormous pension for life!! All this accumulation of wealth, fortune, and favoritism originated in his being what is commonly called squib writer to the court candidates at this memorable election.

Lord Viscount Parker, and Sir Edward Turner were the whig candidates, supported by the Duke of Marlborough, Earl of Guildford, Earl Harcourt, and Earl of Macclesfield, and by the administration of that day, the whigs being then in place, and it was Lord Parker, who first introduced Mr. Jenkinson to the Duke of Newcastle, at that time minister, and procured for him the first appointment he obtained.

Lord Viscount Wenman, and Sir James Dashwood were supported by the tory and opposition interest, and by the Earl of Abingdon, and Earl of Litchfield, and after a most violent and expensive contest, this election ended in a double return of all four candidates, and on the 23d of April, 1755, the House of Commons declared Lord Wenman,

and Sir James Dashwood not duly elected, but that Lord Parker, and Sir Edward Turner were duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

At the ensuing general election in 1761, the Duke of Marlborough nominated one member, and the tory party the other, and they have continued to do the same ever since, for a period of fifty-five years, rendering the county representation, which for all England amounts to only eighty members, being less than one-fifth of the number allotted to the rotten boroughs, of no consequence in a division of the House of Commons, as the greater part of these counties are represented by gentlemen of opposite party and principles, who are forced into a compromise to avoid the ruinous expenses of a contest, which cannot be otherwise prevented under the present system of election-ering.

OXFORD—CITY.

OXFORD CITY is the county town of Oxfordshire, seated at the confluence of the rivers Isis and Cherwell, 20 miles from Buckingham, nine from Dorchester, and 55 from London, by high Wycombe; containing 14 parishes, 1,902 houses, inhabited by 12,107 persons, viz. 6,126 males and 5,981 females, of whom 1,948 were returned as being employed in trade. The principal bridges are, Magdalen bridge, over the river Cherwell, at the foot of which stands Magdalen college, at the entrance of the city from the London roads: high

bridge in the western suburb, over the Isis: and Folly bridge over the Isis, in the southern suburb, leading to Abingdon, in Berks. They are all built of stone. At the coronation of the kings and queens of England, the mayor officiates in the buttery, and has for his fee a large gilt bowl and cover. The Thames or Isis is navigable for barges to London, and has a canal navigation running parallel with the Cherwell, to Banbury, and thence joins the Birmingham, Warwick, and Coventry canals. In Port meadow, at a small distance from the city annual races are held. Of late years Oxford has been embellished with a noble market-place. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday. Fair, called St. Giles, merely nominal, 1st Sept. The observatory, stands in lat. 51. 45. 38. long. 1. 15. west.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city sent *ab origine* members to Parliament, and in the reign of Henry the Third was governed by a mayor.

PETITION. Feb. 8, 1620. A petition of Sir Francis Barrington, against Mr. Wentworth.

Resolved, "That Mr. Wentworth is duly elected."

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, recorder, four aldermen, two bailiffs, eight assistants, two chamberlains, and twenty-four common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Feb. 19, 1621. Stated, That the right was in the Mayor, fifteen more, called the Magistrates, and common-council, together with the Freemen of the said city.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 1,600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Mayor and Bailiffs.

PATRON—Duke of Marlborough, one member.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city is remarkable for an act of bribery, committed by almost all the members of the corporation. In 1767 Philip Ward, esq., then mayor, in conjunction with Thomas Robinson and John Brown, the bailiffs of the said city, and several of the aldermen, wrote a letter to Sir Thomas Stapylton, bart., and the Hon. Robert Lee, their members, stating that they would elect them again at the next general election for a certain sum of money, stipulated in that letter, and acquainting them, that unless they complied with that condition, they certainly should not meet with their support. This letter was produced in the House of Commons by the honourable members who received it, when, upon being read, it was agreed, that the persons concerned in writing that letter should be taken forthwith into the custody of the sergeant at arms. They were accordingly taken and brought to the House of Commons, and were by them committed to Newgate ; but after a con-

finement of some considerable time, upon their petitioning, and setting forth to the House their hearty sorrow and sincere contrition for their offence, they were discharged, after being reprimanded on their knees, by the speaker, in the following words :

“ Philip Ward, John Treacher, Sir Thomas Munday, Thomas Wise, John Nicholes, John Philips, Isaac Lawrence, Richard Tawney, Thomas Robinson, and John Brown :

“ The offence, of which you have been guilty, has justly brought you under the severe displeasure of this House. A more enormous crime you could not well commit, since a deeper wound could not have been given to the constitution itself, than by the open and dangerous attempt, which you have made to subvert the freedom and independence of this House. The freedom of this House is the freedom of this country, which can continue no longer, than while the voices of the electors are uninfluenced by any base or venal motive. For if abilities and integrity are no recommendation to the electors, if those who bid highest for their voices are to obtain them from such detestable considerations, this House will not be the representatives of the people of Great Britain. Instead of being the guardians and protectors of their liberties, instead of redressing the grievances of the subject, this House itself will be the author of the worst of grievances ; it will become the venal instrument of power to reduce this happy nation, the envy and admiration of the world, to the lowest state of misery and servitude.

This is the abject condition to which you have attempted to bring your fellow-citizens.

“ Many circumstances concur to aggravate your offence. The place of your residence was a singular advantage. You had at all times the example of one of the most learned and respectable bodies in Europe before your eyes. Their conduct in every instance, but especially in the choice of their representatives in Parliament, was well worthy your imitation.

“ You are magistrates of a great city. In such a station, it was a duty peculiarly incumbent on you to watch over the morals of your fellow-citizens; to keep yourselves pure from venality; and to prevent, by your influence, those under your government from being tainted by this growing and pestilential vice. How have you abused this trust? You yourselves have set the infamous example of prostitution in the most public and daring manner; surely you must have felt some remorse from the generous disdain with which your corrupt offer was rejected by your representatives. They thought, and justly thought, that a seat in this House, obtained by a free and independent choice of their constituents, was the highest honour to which a subject can aspire; and that discharging their duty as such representatives, was the noblest of services. Sorry I am to say, that these considerations do not appear to have had the least weight with you. However, you have at last acknowledged your guilt, and, by your petition yesterday, you seem conscious of the enormity of your offence. This House, in the

terror of its judgments, always thinks upon mercy ; nor do they ever inflict punishment but for the sake of example, and to prevent others from becoming the objects of their resentment.

“ The censure passed upon you, will, they hope, have that effect. You are now the object of their mercy, and are brought to the bar to be discharged.

“ May you be penetrated with a due sense of their justice and lenity !—May you atone for your past offence, by a constant endeavour to make a right use of the invaluable privileges which you enjoy as electors !—Consider these privileges as a sacred trust reposed in you. Discharge it with integrity. But before you rise from your present posture, I do, in obedience of the commands of this House, *Reprimand you*.

“ I am now to acquaint you, that you are discharged, paying your fees.”

From the above period to the year 1796, the members for this city were nominated by the Duke of Marlborough, and the Earl of Abingdon, but at the general election in that year, Henry Peters, esq., offered himself as an independent candidate and was elected after an expensive contest.

At the general election in 1802, the Duke of Marlborough brought in one member, and the corporation the other, and procured the return of the same gentlemen again in 1806.

In 1807, Mr. Lockhart who had been an agent to Mr. Peters, succeeded upon the independent interest in opposition to Mr. Atkins Wright the corporation candidate.

At the last general election in 1812, the Hon. George Eden was supported by the Duke of Marlborough, Atkyns Wright, esq., by the corporation, and John Ingram Lockhart, esq., by the independent interest. At the close of the poll the numbers were,

For Atkyns Wright, esq...862

J. J. Lockhart, esq.....827

Hon. George Eden....798

It is imagined that in future the Duke of Marlborough will return one member, and the other will be contested.

OXFORD—UNIVERSITY.

The origin of this university as at first established is involved in obscurity, but all historians agree that it was in a very early period—Camden mentions that Oxford was the seat of learning in the time of the Britons. The first college endowed with a regular and permanent income was that of Baliol, in 1269. The university consists of 20 colleges.—First, Baliol College, founded in 1269, by Sir John Baliol, of Barnard castle, father of John Baliol, King of Scotland; mostly rebuilt in the reigns of Henry VI. and VII. It consists of a master, 12 fellows, 14 scholars, and 18 exhibitors. Second, Merton College, erected in 1267, by Walter de Merton, bishop of Rochester and lord chancellor of England, being transferred from the college at Merton, in Surrey; it consists of a warden, 24 fellows, and 14 postmasters. Third,

University College, supposed to have been the principal college or hall founded by Alfred, but principally restored by William, archdeacon of Durham, who left a considerable legacy thereto in 1249, as well as by the contribution of Walter Shirlaw, bishop of Durham, and Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland; it consists now of a master, 12 fellows, and 17 scholars. It has been greatly enlarged by the benefaction of Dr. John Radcliff, and has chambers for two fellows, students in medicine, who have a handsome salary for 10 years, half of which time they are to travel beyond seas for their improvement. Fourth, Exeter College, founded in 1314, by Walter Stapledon, bishop of Exeter; it consists of a rector, 25 fellows, one scholar, and 2 exhibitioners, principally elected out of the diocese of Exeter. Fifth, Oriel College, founded in 1324, by Adam de Brome, almoner to Edward II. A tenement called L'Orielle or Le Orielle, was given to it by Edward III., from whence it is supposed to have had its name. It maintains a provost, 18 fellows, and 13 exhibitioners, and the whole number of students is about 140. Sixth, Queen's College, founded in 1340, by Robert de Eglesfield, chaplain to Queen Phillippa, consort of Edward III. The present edifice was begun in 1672 by Sir Joseph Williamson, knight, and finished by the handsome legacy of Mr. Mitchell, of Richmond. The members are a provost, 24 fellows, &c., and the whole number of students amounts to about 200. The custom of ushering in a boar's head with a song or carrol on christmas day, is now peculiar to this

college, but it was formerly practiced all over the kingdom. Seventh, New College, or Winchester college, was founded in 1379, by the great William Wykeham, and endowed for a warden, and 70 fellows. In the chapel is shewn the Crozier of the founder, almost the only one of the kind remaining in the kingdom. Eighth, Trinity College, was founded by Sir Thomas Pope, in 1594, on the site of a college erected by the Prior and Monks, of Durham. It consists of a president, 12 fellows, and 12 scholars. Ninth, Lincoln College, founded by Richard Fleming, bishop of Lincoln, who obtained a licence of Henry VI. in 1427, to make All Saints church collegiate, and to found a college for a rector and seven scholars; it was finished in 1475, by Rotherham, bishop of Lincoln, afterwards archbishop of York, and now consists of a rector, 12 fellows, &c. Tenth, Worcester College, founded in 1714, by Sir Thomas Coke, of Bentley, in Worcestershire, which has had several endowments since, and now consists of a provost, 20 fellows, 17 scholars, &c. It was originally called Gloucester College, being a seminary for educating the novices of Gloucester monastery, and at the reformation was converted into a palace for the bishop of Oxford. Eleventh, St. John's College, was founded in 1557, by Sir Thomas White, alderman of London, for a president, 50 fellows, two chaplains, two clerks, six choristers, &c. Twelfth, All Soul's College, founded in 1438, by Henry Chicheley, archbishop of Canterbury, for a warden, and 40 fellows, besides two chaplains, nine clerks and choristers. Thirteenth, Magdalen

College, founded in 1458, by William, of Wainfleet, bishop of Winchester, for a president, 40 fellows, 30 scholars, &c. Fourteenth, Braze Nose College, founded in 1509, by William Smith, bishop of Lincoln, and Richard Sutton, knight, of Prestbury, in Cheshire, for a principal and 15 fellows. The present establishment is five fellows, 32 scholars, and 12 exhibitioners. Its singular name appears to have been derived from the founders having erected it on the site of two ancient halls, one of which was called Braze Nose Hall, which had acquired its name from the students who were removed from a seminary or temporary university at Stamford, having an iron ring fixed in a nose of brass, and serving as a knocker to the gate. Fifteenth, Corpus Christi College, founded in 1516, by bishop Fox, lord privy seal to Henry VII. and VIII. The Crozier of the founder is here shewn, but not so curious as that of Wykeham, at New College. The present members of this society are a president, 20 fellows, two chaplains, 20 scholars, four exhibitioners, and six gentlemen commoners. Sixteenth, Christ Church, founded by Cardinal Wolsey, in 1525. It consists of a dean, eight canons, 100 students, eight chaplains, eight singing men, and as many choristers, a school-master, organist, &c. In the centre is the grand entrance, a most magnificent Gothic building, having a beautiful tower, which contains the bell called great Tom, on the sound of which every night at nine the students of the university are enjoined by statute, to repair to their respective societies. Seventeenth, Jesus College, founded in

1571, by Queen Elizabeth, and endowed by Hugh Price, treasurer of St. David's, for a principal, eight fellows, and eight scholars, which has been since raised to 19 fellows, and 18 scholars, besides exhibitioners. Eighteenth, Wadham College, founded in 1613, according to the will of Nicholas Wadham, of Merrifield, in Somerset, for a warden, 15 fellows, 15 scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. Nineteenth, Pembroke College, founded in 1620, by Thomas Tesdale, of Glympton, in Oxford, and Richard Wightwick, rector, of Isley, Berks. Twentieth, Hertford College, formerly called Hart Hall, founded in 1312 by Walter Stapleton, bishop of Exeter, as an appendage to Exeter College, but it was converted into a separate college in 1740, principally from the endowment of Dr. Richard Newton, for a principal, two senior fellows, besides juniors, and students. The university is governed by a chancellor, usually a nobleman, chosen by the students for life; a high-steward, named by the chancellor, and approved by the university, who is also for life; a vice-chancellor, always in orders, and the head of a college, who exercises the chancellor's power, keeps the officers and students to their duty, and appoints four provice-chancellors, out of the heads of colleges, to officiate in his absence; two proctors, who are masters of arts, chosen yearly out of the several colleges in turns, to keep the peace, punish disorders, oversee weights and measures, order scholastic exercises, &c.; a public orator, who writes letters by order of convocation, and harangues princes and other great men who visit

the university ; three esquires beadles, who carry gilt silver maces, and three yeomen beadles with plain ones, who attend the vice-chancellor, apprehend all delinquents, and conduct the preachers to church and the lecturers to school ; and a vergers who carries a silver rod before the vice-chancellor.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

The privilege of sending burgesses to Parliament was granted to this university by King James the First, in 1603.

PETITIONS, &c. April 19, 1626. Ordered, " That the right of election for this university be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of William King, L. L. D., against the return of William Bromley, esq., and George Clarke, L. L. D., by reason of divers corrupt and illegal practices, committed by them and Robert Shippen, D. D., and vice-chancellor, who presided as returning officer.

A petition of Sedgwick Harrison, and others, against the same return.

No decision appears.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Doctors and actual Masters of Arts.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1,200.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Vice-Chancellor and Heads of Colleges.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The political principles of the members of this university are, with a few exceptions, those of toryism. They have always assisted and given shelter to royalty, whenever it was distressed by the Parliament or people. So little are they, however, to be influenced in the choice of their representatives, that they do not suffer any canvass to be made, nor either of the candidates to be, at the time of election, within ten miles of the jurisdiction of the university. Their representatives are men possessing the same sentiments respecting civil and religious government which they themselves do, so that, in all probability, their present members will be continued in the same honourable situation, as long as they are able to perform the duties annexed to it.

WOODSTOCK.

Woodstock, a borough, market-town, and parish in the hundred of Wootton, Oxford, situated on a brook which falls into the Isis, eight miles from Oxford, and $62\frac{1}{2}$ from London, containing 203 houses and 1,322 inhabitants. The town is pleasantly situated, and contains several good buildings, and the streets are well paved. The town-house is a modern neat building. Woodstock is noted for its manufactures of fine wash-leather gloves, and polished steel watch

chains, &c. Here are annual horse races. Market on Tuesday, and fairs the 2d Tuesday after 2d February, 5th April, Whit-Tuesday, 2d August, 2d October, Tuesday after 2d November, and 1st and 17th December.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough, as Dr. Willis writes, returned burgesses to Parliament in the 30th and 33d of Edward I. : but Mr. Prynne takes no notice of any returns for it; nor do we find the names of any burgesses returned for it before 1st of Queen Mary, and also to the two next Parliaments, and then intermitted until the 13th of Queen Elizabeth, when its right of returning was inquired into.

PETITIONS, &c. April 9, 1571. Report made of the validity of burgesses; and ordered, by Mr. Attorney's consent, they shall remain according to their returns; for that the validity of the charter of the town is to be examined elsewhere, if cause be.

March 3, 1713. A petition of Sir Thomas Sebright, bart., and Vincent Oakley, esq., against Sir Thomas Wheate, bart., and William Cadogan, esq., candidates with the petitioners, for prevailing with the mayor, &c., of this borough, to make divers new freemen, in order to the said election; and by imprisoning, bribing, and other illegal practices, and by refusing the votes of several for the petitioners who had a right to vote, have procured themselves to be returned; in wrong of

the petitioners, and of the rights and privileges of the House.

Resolved: "That the right of election of members, to serve in Parliament for this borough, is in the mayor, aldermen, and freemen of the said borough."

Resolved: "That Sir Thomas Wheate, bart., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That William Cadogan, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That Vincent Oakley, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That Sir Thomas Sebright is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That the late election is a void election."

Nov. 10, 1721. A petition of Sir Thomas Wheate, bart.

Withdrawn.

Parl. 6. Charles Crisp and William Clayton, esqrs., petitioned.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, recorder, four aldermen, and sixteen common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Corporation and Freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—less than 200.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Duke of Marlborough.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough, which is adjoining to the wall of Blenheim park, is wholly under the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough. The right of voting has never come under the adjudication of a committee of the House of Commons, but it is admitted to be in a mayor, four aldermen, sixteen burgesses, and the freemen at large.

BANBURY.

BANBURY, a borough and market-town in the hundred of Badbury, Oxfordshire, $75\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London; contains 502 houses and 2,755 inhabitants, of whom 567 were returned as being employed in trade and manufactures. It stands on the river Charwell, on the road from Buckingham to Bridgnorth. The weekly market on Thursday, is reckoned the best in the county for corn, cattle, and all kinds of provisions.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was incorporated by Queen Mary, and then had the privilege of sending one representative to Parliament.

PETITIONS, &c. March 25, 1681. A petition of Thomas Wise, esq.

No determination.

March 31, 1690. A petition of Nathaniel Wheatley and others, against John Hawles, esq.

December 29. Sergeant Trenchard reported, the question was concerning the right of election, whether in the mayor, aldermen, and capital burgesses, or in the burgesses at large? If in the former, the sitting member is elected; if in the latter, Mr. Hawles is elected.

Resolved: "That the right of election of a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough, is in the mayor, aldermen, and capital burgesses only."

Resolved: "That Sir Robert Dashwood, knt. and bart., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough:" to both of which the House agreed.

Ordered: "Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant for making a new writ for electing a burgess for this borough, in the room of Mr. Isaacson, expelled this House."

1700. Double return; viz. Charles North and John Dormer, esqrs., which were laid before the Committee of Privileges.

The fact was agreed to by both parties, that Mr. Thorp was mayor, and died before his year was up, viz. on the 25th February, 1698, and the question in dispute was—who was the lawful successor.

"That the corporation by charter consists of twelve aldermen, six capital burgesses, and thirty assistants; and the mayor is to be chosen out of the aldermen, viz. upon an annual choice of a mayor, the aldermen, capital burgesses, and assistants, have a right to vote; but if a mayor dies within the year, then his successor for the re-

maining part of the year, to be chosen by the aldermen and burgesses only."

Resolved: "That Charles North, esq., is duly returned a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough:" to which the House agreed.

Nov. 3, 1705. A petition of Toby Chauncey, esq., against Charles North, esq.

No determination.

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of Sir William Codrington, bart., against Monoux Cope, esq.

Petition withdrawn.

CORPORATION.

This borough was first incorporated in the 1st of Queen Mary, and then imprivileged to return one member to Parliament; by which charter it was governed by a bailiff, twelve aldermen, and twelve burgesses. In the reign of King James I., it was made a mayor town, with twelve aldermen and six capital burgesses; and it had a new charter from King George I., in the year 1718, by which it is now governed by a mayor, high-steward, recorder, six capital burgesses, twelve assistants, a town-clerk, and a sergeant at mace.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Mayor, Aldermen, and capital Burgesses only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—19.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Earl of Guildford.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The number of voters in this town would be five hundred if every householder had his right agreeably to ancient usage, and why the householders at Abingdon should possess that right, and those at Banbury be deprived of it, is a question that we believe will puzzle the most ardent advocate for exclusive privileges to answer.

The select body who compose the corporation at this place, receive the nomination of the member, as is the custom in all boroughs of the same same description from a patron.

This borough, in common with Abingdon and Higham Ferrers, which were also incorporated by Queen Mary, Bewdley, which was incorporated by James I., and Monmouth, which was imprivileged to send members in the reign of Henry VIII., have only the election of one member each.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

RUTLANDSHIRE is bounded on the north-east by Lincolnshire, on the south and south-east by Northamptonshire, and on the west by Leicestershire; being the smallest county in England. It is of an oval figure, in length about 15 miles, and in breadth 12; containing 128,000 acres of land. It is divided into five hundreds, viz. Alstoe, East,

Martinsley, Oakhamsoke, and Wrandike, containing two market-towns, Oakham, the county-town, and Uppingham; 50 parishes, 3,274 houses, inhabited by 16,356 persons, viz. 7,978 males, and 9,378 females; of whom 1,923 were employed in trades and manufactures, and 3,995 in agriculture. The total amount of the property tax in 1806 was, 199,023*l*. The amount of the poor rates in 1808, was 12,674*l*., and was at the rate of 3*s*. 5*d*. in the pound: the average scale of mortality for 10 years appears to have been as 1 to 51 of the existing population. It sends two members to Parliament, and lies in the diocese of Peterborough. It is supposed to have received its name from the red colour of the soil; being in many parts a sort of ruddle used in staining the fleeces of the sheep. Rutland has no manufactures of any consequence. Anciently, this county was the residence of the Coritani, and afterwards a part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia. The gentlemen's seats in it are few, Burleigh is the chief.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has been represented from the first general returns of knights of the shires.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 4, 1601. Complaint being made, that Sir Andrew Noell, being sheriff of the county, had returned himself, jointly with Sir John Harrington, to be knight of the shire.

Upon which a new election was made, and the warrant was sent from the speaker.

Mr. Carew observes, this resolution is contrary to a former precedent, agreed on in the House of

Commons upon the 21st day of February, in the Parliament, *anno dom.* 1588-1589, where Mr. St. Poole, being both knight for the county of Lincoln and sheriff of the same also, was, notwithstanding, allowed to retain his place in the said House, as a member thereof.

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of several freeholders of this county, on behalf of themselves, and other freeholders of the county; and also a petition of Richard Halford, esq., against John Noel, esq., for bribery and other undue practices, whereby he obtained a majority upon the poll of the petitioner, and was returned with Lord Finch, in wrong of the petitioner.

Resolved: That the Hon. John Noel, esq., is not duly elected a knight, to serve in this present Parliament for this county."

Resolved: "That Richard Halford, esq., is duly elected a knight to serve in this present Parliament for this county."

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This is the only county in England which has no representatives, except the two knights of the shire; and, consequently, the inhabitant housekeepers, like those of the city of Ely, and the opulent and populous towns of Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Leeds, Wolverhampton, Halifax, &c., are without any representation. Ninety-nine parts out of a hundred of the empire of Great Britain are in a similar situation; but the observation applies with peculiar force, when these places present themselves to our view, and are compared with Gatton, which has only one house,

with Old Sarum, which has not a house remaining, or with the nominal representation of those cities and towns, where the right of election is confined to a corporation of nineteen, twenty-four, or thirty, as is the case at Banbury, Andover, and Bath.

One member for this county was nominated by the Marquis of Exeter till the last general election in 1812, and his ancestors had possessed that influence ever since the year 1747, but at the last election, the county became independent of that controul, and elected Sir Gilbert Heathcote.

The family of Sir Gerard Noel Noel, of Exon Park, have always brought in the other member.

The Noblemen who have estates in this county are the Marquis of Exeter, Earl of Cardigan, Earl of Harborough, Earl of Winchelsea, and Earl of Lonsdale.

SHROPSHIRE.

SALOP or SHROPSHIRE is an inland county of England, bounded on the north by Denbighshire, a detached part of Flintshire, and by Cheshire; on the east by Staffordshire; on the south by Worcestershire and Herefordshire; and on the west by Radnorshire, Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire. It lies nearly within 52° and 53° north latitude, and 2° and 3° west longitude from London. It is about 50 miles in length from north to south,

42 in breadth, from east to west, 218 in circumference, and contains 1,328 square miles, and 849,940 acres, or about a forty-fifth part of England and Wales. Its shape is an irregular parallelogram. This county contains fifteen hundreds or divisions, viz. Oswestry, Pimhill, Bradforth north, Bradford south, and Brimstry, on the north-east side of the Severn; the liberty of Shrewsbury, the franchises of Wenlock, and the hundred of Stottesden, extending on both banks of that river; the hundreds of Ford, Chirbury, Condover, Munslow, Overs, Purslow, and the honour of Clun, on the south-west side of the Severn. Shropshire is in part in the three dioceses of Hereford, of Litchfield and Coventry, and St. Asaph. There are, in this county, 262 churches, of which 229 are parochial. There are mines of lead ore, of a good quality, on the western side of the county, which have been productive. In some of these mines, tools, judged to be Roman, have been found, a few of which are preserved. Calamine is also met with, and the rock at Pimhill is strongly tinged with copper. Symptoms both of copper and lead appear in the Cardington hills. Coal, of an excellent quality, is found on the eastern side of the county, particularly in the parishes of Wellington, Lilleshall, Wrockwardine, Wombridge, Stirchley, Dawley, Little Wenlock, Madeley, Barrow, Benthall, and Brosely, which promise a great and lasting supply for the extensive iron manufactures in the neighbourhood, for domestic use, and for exportation. In this district are the following iron-works. On the south side

of the Severn are Willey, Broseley, Calcot, Bent-hall, and Barnett's Leason: on the north of that river is Madeley Wood, Coalbrookdale, Light-moor, Horsehay Old Park, Kesley, Snedshill, Donnington, Queen's Wood, and Wrockwardine Wood. These works employ about 6000 hands, and about 260,000 tons of coal are raised annually in this district. In the year 1802, there were, on the different iron and coal works, 180 fire engines, and, thirty years preceding, there were not more than 20. This county is also well supplied with lime, and in general the lime-stone is at no great distance from coal; it is also well supplied with building stone. At Pitchford, near Shrewsbury, a mineral pitch is found, exuding from a red sand-stone; and near Jackfield, south of the Severn, is carried forward the manufacture of coal-tar; and in the hundred of North Bradford, are found several salt springs. The river Severn runs through the county from north-west to south-east, and is navigable the whole way, neither lock nor weir being upon it from Pool-quay in Montgomeryshire to the mouth of the Avon near Bristol, a distance of 155 miles. The other rivers are the Camlet, the Teine, the Clunn, and several smaller streams. In this county are several lakes or meres, covering from 40 to 116 acres of ground. There are 17 market towns in Shropshire, and nine towns or villages, which have fairs but not markets. Various branches of the flannel manufacture are carried on near Shrewsbury; and at Coalport and Caughley are manufactures of China ware of great excellence, the blue and white, and the blue white and gold China made there is in many

instances equal to that from the East. This county, according to the returns of the population made to the House of Commons in 1801, was stated to contain 31,182 inhabited, and 929 empty houses; 34,501 families, 82,563 males, 85,076 females, 45,046 persons employed in agriculture, 35,535 mechanics, and 70,504 persons not comprised in either of those classes, making the total number of persons, 167,639. The gross amount of the assessment on this county, by the returns under the Property Tax Act in 1806, amounted to 1,530,060*l.*, and the amount of the Poor's Rate in 1803 was 83,477*l.*, at the rate of 3*s.* 11½*d.* in the pound. The average scale of mortality, for 10 years, appears to have been as 1 to 53 of the existing population.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county, we apprehend, has been summoned to send knights to the Parliament, ever since the 23d of Edward I.; but Mr. Prynne's list begins in the 26th year of that reign. It was joined with Staffordshire, under one sheriff. We find no memoirs relating to its elections worth noticing here.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county is not under any immediate influence, which may be imputed, in some degree, to the small number of nobility who reside here. There are many gentlemen of comfortable fortunes, who, like their ancestors of old, possess independent spirits, and have not as yet learnt to bow their neck to a yoke fabricated by despotic power.

They have, on this account, been branded by their enemies with the epithet of the proud Salopians; but if the definition of that pride be independence, in its fullest and completest sense, our wish is, that all our fellow-citizens were in possession of it; aristocratic oppression would then cease, and cheerfulness and plenty would succeed in its room.

The Noblemen who have the largest fortunes in this county, are the Marquis of Stafford, Earl of Darlington, and Earl of Powys, but only the last noble lord resides in Shropshire.

SHREWSBURY.

SHREWSBURY, a borough and market-town, consisting of five parishes, in the liberties of Shrewsbury, and capital town of Salop, situated on a kind of peninsula formed by the winding of the river Severn, 155½ miles from London, through Coventry; containing 2,597 houses, inhabited by 13,486 persons, viz. 6,068 males, and 7,418 females; of whom 6,000 were employed in various trades and manufactures, principally in that of flannels. There are 12 trading companies, all incorporated by charters in the same manner as in London. The staple trade in Shrewsbury is in fine flannels and Welsh webs. A large manufactory of coarse linens, more particularly of linen thread, has lately been established in the environs of Shrewsbury. Besides the river Severn, the town has the advantage of a canal to Wales, with a branch to Ellesmere, and another to Madeley,

with a branch to Newport. The market days are on Wednesdays and Saturdays, for corn, cattle, and provisions, and on Thursdays for Welsh cotton, friezes, flannels, baize, &c. Its fairs are the Saturday after the 15th of March, Wednesday after Easter week, Wednesday before Holy Thursday, 3d July, 12th August, 2d October, and 12th December. Near Shrewsbury is a very visible appearance of the great ancient road, called *Watling-street*, which ran from London to this town, and thence to the utmost borders of Wales.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town has been summoned to send members to Parliament from the 23d of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. March 26, 1604. Two returns, viz. 1st, Mr. Barker, and 2ndly, Mr. Sergeant Harris; the former returned by the bailiffs, and the latter by the sheriff and electors.

Resolved: "That neither ought to be accepted."

Whereupon a new writ was issued.

The sheriff was ordered to be taken into custody by the sergeant at arms.

After a long debate, the House gave direction by Mr. Speaker, to remember the favorable course of proceeding with him, and what urgent cause they had of imputing and punishing his offence; yet, understanding his willingness and care to make this second return, as also for the respect they bore to his father, the House was content (when the return was made) he should be free from further restraint or question.

April 8, 1614. Mr. Alford moved, that the

House may determine, whether Mr. Attorney-General may serve.

1st Question: Whether he shall, for this Parliament, remain of the House, or not?

Resolved: "He shall."

2d Question: Whether any attorney-general shall, after this Parliament, serve as a member of this House?

Resolved: "No."

May 23, 1678. A petition of Edward Kinaston, esq., against Sir Richard Corbet.

No determination.

Nov. 25, 1708. A petition of Sir Edward Leighton, bart., against John Kinaston and Richard Mytton, esqrs.

Upon which a question arose as to the right of election.

Resolved: "That the right of electing burgesses, to serve in Parliament, for this borough, is only in the burgesses inhabiting the said borough, or in the suburbs thereof, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms or charity."

Evidence was then given as to bribery and other indirect practices on both the sitting members: and Gittens, a shoemaker, said the sitting members ordered 2000 pair of shoes, and all the shoemakers in the town were employed to make them: he was ordered to make six dozen by Mr. Mytton and Mr. Phillips, steward to Mr. Kinaston, two years and a half ago; that there was a general meeting of the shoemakers, where it was proposed, in consideration of their having made so many shoes upon the sitting members' account, that

they should all vote for them: that he went to vote for petitioner, but meeting Phillips, he told him he should never be paid for the six dozen of shoes if he voted for the petitioner: whereupon he voted for the sitting members, contrary to his intention, and was paid for the shoes by Phillips: that Mr. Tongue, agent for the sitting members, offered to get him lent 25*l.* without interest, if he would vote for the sitting members.

Brown said, Mr. Robert Phillips promised him a horse if he would vote for Mr. Kinaston and Mr. Mytton; and that Mr. Kinaston told him he would help him to 25*l.*, and 4*l.* to put out his son apprentice; upon which he promised him his vote, though before promised to Sir Edward Leighton.

Andrews said, Mr. Cowper, a clergyman, who has a living in Mr. Mytton's gift, offered five shillings and one guinea to vote for the sitting members, and paid him two shillings and six-pence in earnest, and he had one shilling more after: that one Powell, as he was going to the election to vote for the petitioner, was forced into a house where several of the sitting members' voters were; and being invited, eat and drank with them, but was after told, if he did not vote for Mr. Kinaston and Mr. Mytton, he should pay ten shillings for what he had eat and drank.

Harris said, he was going with three others to poll for petitioner; but meeting Mr. Kinaston and Mr. Mytton's sons, he saw them give two half crowns to two of the said burgesses, bidding them vote for Mr. Kinaston and Mr. Mytton; and Harris asking if they made bribing people? he was

knocked down by one Hulston: he saw the three burgesses vote for Mr. Kinaston and Mr. Mytton.

Thomas Cross said, petitioner told him, if he would vote, and get votes for him, he would make him steward of an estate that he had lately purchased, saying he could not treat him, but paid one shilling for his club: that Robert Devis, an agent for the petitioner, offered him thirty shillings if he and his two brothers would vote for the petitioner.

Mansfield said, Sir Edward Leighton gave him one shilling, and Lady Leighton one shilling and six-pence, to fetch his son out of Cheshire.

Resolved, "That John Kinaston, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this Parliament for this borough."

Resolved, "That Richard Mytton, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved, "That Sir Edward Leighton, bart., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this Parliament."

March 3, 1713. A petition of Corbet Kinaston, esq., against Thomas Jones, esq., for notorious bribery and indirect practices, procuring Jonathan Scot, esq., mayor, to refuse the votes of several burgesses who tendered themselves, and ought to have been allowed, and admitting others to vote for Thomas Jones who ought not to be allowed, prevailing upon the mayor to return the said Thomas Jones.

A petition of several of the burgesses to the same effect.

The petitioner's counsel alleged the right of election to be in the burgesses at large.

For Mr. Jones it was alleged to be only in the burgesses inhabiting within the borough, paying scot and lot.

Resolved, "That the right of electing burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the said borough."

Sarah Williams said, that on the first day of the election in the morning, before the poll began, 41 of those who voted for Mr. Jones and Mr. Cresset were treated at the Three Tuns by Mr. Brickdale: the sitting members were with them, and the meat brought in by his servant.

John Powell said, the petitioner gave John Thomas, his kinsman, (as he told him, the witness,) four pounds towards buying his burgess-ship: that the petitioner gave the witness ten shillings to vote for him, and his interest, but he did not vote for him.

Resolved; "That Thomas Jones, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That Edward Cresset, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

"Resolved: "That Corbet Kinaston, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That the said petition, complaining of an undue election and return of Edward Cres-

set, esq., for this borough, is frivolous, vexatious, and scandalous."

Ordered: "That the said petitioners do make satisfaction to the said Mr. Cresset for his costs and expenses."

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Sir Richard Corbet, bart., and Orlando Bridgman, esq., against Corbet Kinaston, esq., and Richard Lyster, esq., for bribery and other undue practices, and also as to the right of election.

Resolved: "That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is only in the burgesses inhabiting the said borough, or in the suburbs thereof, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms or charity."

Upon which a question arose, whether the vills and parishes adjacent were part of this ancient borough or the suburbs thereof?

Resolved: "That the whole parishes of St. Chad, St. Mary, St. Alkmond, St. Julian, the Holy Cross, and St. Giles, and the several vills of Hadnall, Acton-Reynold, Meriden, Hanwood, Grinsell, Ollerton, Onslow, Preston-Gubald, Pimley, and Merivall, are not within this borough or the suburbs thereof."

Resolved: "That the several vills of Bicton, Belton, Alkmear, Longwar, Calcot, Whitley, Whelback, Upper and Lower Rossall, Shelton, Oxon, Woodcot, Horton, Munkmeal and Goosehill, in the parish of St. Chad, Great and Little Berwick, Almond Park, Newton, Albright-Hussey, Cotton-hill, Leaton, Asley, Merrington, Wolascot, Sansaw and Clive, in the parish of St.

Mary, Hencott, Albright-Lee, Preston-Montford, Dintle and Arlscroft, in the parish of Alkmond, and Pulley and Shelton, in the parish of St. Julian, are not part of the ancient borough of Shrewsbury, or the suburbs thereof.

Resolved: "That the parish of Holy Cross and St. Giles are excluded as before.

Resolved: "That Corbet Kinaston. esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That Richard Lister, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That Orlando Bridgeman, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That Sir Richard Corbet is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Jan. 23, 1735. Richard Lister and John Mytton, esqrs., petitioned.

No determination.

Nov. 12, 1747. Richard Prynce Astley and Robert Piggot, esqrs., petitioned.

Petition withdrawn.

May 10, 1768. William Pulteney, esq., petitioned; not renewed the 2d sessions.

Nov. 29, 1774. William Pulteney, esq., and several of the voters, petitioned against Mr. Charlton Leighton's election.

March 8, 1775. Resolved: "That William Pulteney, esq., the petitioner, is duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

Dec. 10, 1806. T. T. Jones, esq., and others, petitioned against Mr. Bennett's election.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, recorder, steward, town-clerk, 21 aldermen, and 48 common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Vide Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—900.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The right of election in this town was anciently popular and free ; so late as the year 1709, we find by the Journals of the House of Commons the franchise extended not only to the burgesses inhabiting within the town, paying scot and lot, but also to those inhabiting six other parishes, and 46 villis in its suburbs and neighbourhood. These were, however, disfranchised by a subsequent resolution of the House, on the 9th of April, 1723, and the right was limited to the burgesses inhabiting the precinct of the borough only.

The corporation afterwards attempted to confine this right still further, as will appear by the following case, on the petition of certain electors in the interest of William Pulteney, esq., tried by a committee of the House of Commons on the 7th of March, 1775.

The question was, whether a class of men coming under the two following descriptions, who had

been refused their admission to their freedom by the mayor, were entitled to vote at that election?

1st. All persons of the age of one-and-twenty, and who have served a seven years' apprenticeship to one of the trades, which form fourteen ancient companies by prescription or incorporation in this borough, have a right to demand, and be admitted to, their freedom, on paying five pounds, and all the usual fees.

2d. All persons born within the borough are, at the age of one-and-twenty, entitled in like manner to demand, and be admitted to, their freedom, on payment of five pounds and the usual fees.

The fact, that the rejected voters came under the description of one or other of those two customs, was not disputed.

It was proved, that more than a year before the election, they had tendered the fees to the persons whose province it is, by the law of the place, to admit freemen; that they had claimed to be admitted, and were refused. It was likewise proved, that they had tendered their votes at the election. But the two customs were called in question.

In 1771, one Baxter, claiming his freedom under those customs, had brought a *mandamus* in the court of King's Bench, on the trial of that cause; the corporation contended, that the two customs, which the plaintiff alleged to be immemorial, were only introduced by a bye-law of 1642, which bye-law was repealed in 1733. The plaintiff maintained, that the bye-law was only declaratory of the ancient custom, which could not therefore be

affected by the repeal of such a bye-law. The jury found for the plaintiff.

Baxter, in consequence of the judgment in his favour, sued out a peremptory *mandamus*, and was admitted to his freedom. But the corporation, after that decision, still refused to admit the other persons who claimed under the same customs.

In the case of Baxter they had moved for a new trial, which was refused; but a second *mandamus* being obtained against them, they moved that this new cause might be tried at the bar; this was granted by the court; and, on that occasion, the judge who tried the first said, he thought, that on the trial it had not been properly understood.

This second *mandamus* was depending, in the court of King's Bench, at the time of election. It was tried in Michaelmas term, 19th November, 1774, and determined in like manner as the former; and there was no application for a new trial.

On this state of facts, the counsel for the sitting member insisted, that the right of the controverted votes were still open to the discussion of the committee; that the two *mandamuses* were only conclusive amongst the parties, and that, on the trial of new *mandamuses*, the two former verdicts, although they might have great weight as evidence, would not conclude the jury. They suggested, that since the last trial, and after the four days had elapsed, which the court allows for moving a new trial, they had discovered fresh evidence, which, if laid before the committee, would overturn the custom.

The counsel for the petitioners contended, on the contrary, that under circumstances like those of the present case, two verdicts, free from all suspicion of collusion, (the two mayors against whom both the verdicts had been found, having continued to be warm partizans of the sitting members at the election, unimpeached, and not disapproved by the judge,) would be conclusive evidence *as to the customs*, even in a court of law, because the parties to be bound by them on a new *mandamus* would be the same; viz. the corporation of Shrewsbury; that on two such verdicts, a court of equity would make a decree to establish a custom, and would not grant a third trial; but that if this were otherwise, a committee of the House of Commons would never suffer two solemn verdicts, and consequent judgments of the only court competent to such causes, to be called in question before them. They said, that even in the Middlesex case, nobody had ever attempted to impeach the verdict finding Mr. Wilkes guilty of the libel.

The counsel for the sitting members cited several cases, where courts of law had granted new trials after two concordant verdicts, and others where courts of equity had done the same. But they were all shewn to be cases where the judge who tried the cause signified his disapprobation of the verdict; and besides, it was said, that a verdict *before judgment*, once set aside, is considered as if it never had existed.

On the other side, the cases of the Duke of Beaufort, and of Manchester Mills, were cited

among others. The latter came on in the duchy court before Lord Kinnoul, assisted by Lord Mansfield, who said on that occasion, that a verdict in the time of Charles I. (which was produced in the cause,) was conclusive evidence of the custom. After this point had been argued, and the counsel directed to withdraw, the committee, after a short deliberation,

Resolved, not to admit any evidence to impeach the two verdicts, but to consider them as conclusive evidence of the customs.

The sitting members' counsel then endeavoured to prove,

That the rejected voters had not applied in the proper manner, and according to the established usage, to be admitted to the freedom.

But it came out from the evidence, that the mode of their application was regular.

They then contended, that, as the title of those men to their freedom was in suspense, and under litigation in Westminster-hall, when their votes were rejected, they could not be of any avail as to this election; for that in instances where the votes of men, who had applied for their freedom and were refused, and have been allowed, on proving their titles, the case had been always such as to satisfy the committee, or the House, that there was no just ground for refusing them, and that it was done by concert with a candidate, and in order to affect the election.

The committee however, on the same day, (Wednesday the 8th of March,) informed the

House by their chairman, that they had determined, that William Pulteney, esq., was duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

This town is remarkable for one of the most expensive contests in the election annals of this country. It happened at the general election in 1796, between the families of Lord Berwick of Attingham, and the late Sir Richard Hill of Hawkestone. The brothers of these competitors were the candidates; and it ended, after an expense of more than one hundred thousand pounds, in favour of the Hon. William Hill, brother of Lord Berwick, who represented this place in four successive Parliaments, and then resigned his pretensions to Sir Rowland Hill, son of his former opponent, who was soon after created a peer, and both families have retired from the representation.

The other seat has been contested between the late Sir Thomas Tyrwhit Jones, bart., and the Hon. Henry Grey Bennet, second son of the Earl of Tankerville, with alternate success.

At the last general election, in 1812, there was a contest, when the numbers on the poll were as follow—

Hon. Henry Grey Bennet724

Sir Rowland Hill, K. B.....512

William Benyon, esq.336

On Sir Rowland Hill being created Lord Hill, Richard Lyster, esq., was elected, in opposition to Mr. Benyon.

This town acknowledges no patron, being perfectly independent.

BRIDGENORTH.

BRIDGENORTH, a borough and market-town in the hundred of Stoddendon, Salop, 22 miles from Shrewsbury, 13 from Kidderminster, and 140 from London. The river Severn divides the town into two parts, over which there is a handsome bridge of seven arches. The town consists of two parishes, St. Leonard and St. Mary Magdalen, containing 910 houses and 4,319 inhabitants, of whom 3,800 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacturing cloth, stockings, and iron tools, besides all handicrafts in common with other towns in England. It is a place of great trade both by land and water. Its market is on Saturday, and it has four fairs; Thursday before Shrove-Sunday, June 30, August 2, and October 29; resorted to from most parts of the kingdom for cattle, sheep, butter, cheese, bacon, &c., the latter of which continues three days.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough sent members to Parliament as early as Shrewsbury.

PETITIONS, &c. March 28, 1679. A petition of John Wolrick, esq., complaining of undue practices in the bailiffs of Bruges, *alias* Brigenorth, in electing and returning Sir William and Sir Thomas Whitemore, in injury of the petitioner, who was duly elected one of the burgesses of this borough.

No report appears.

Dec. 14, 1698. A petition of Roger Pope, esq., against the return of Sir Edward Acton, by means of corrupt and undue practices.

No report appears.

Dec. 4, 1710. A petition of Sir Humphrey Briggs, bart., and William Whitmore, esq., against the return of Whitmore Acton and Richard Acton, esqrs., by means of bribery and other unwarrantable practices.

No decision.

Feb. —, 1735. Sir Robert Lawley and Sir Richard Acton, bart., petitioned.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by two bailiffs, annually elected out of 24 aldermen, by a jury of 14 men, together with a recorder, 48 common-councilmen, a town-clerk, and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Burgesses and Freemen, within and without the borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 700.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Bailiffs.

PATRON—Thomas Whitmore, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The family of Whitmore of Apley, a seat in the neighbourhood of this borough, have represented it in different Parliaments ever since the reign of James I., and retain the nomination of one of its members to this day. We find the name of Whitmore in every Parliament representing this bo-

rough, with only five exceptions, ever since the Restoration, and frequently they have returned both members. The patronage of many places is hereditary, like a peerage; in others it is transferable, like the stocks, and as marketable as any other commodity; as a proof of which, we extract the following provision from the seventh codicil of the will of the late Right Hon. George Venables, Lord Vernon, as proved on Friday the 30th of July, 1814.

“ I hereby declare this to be a codicil to my last
 “ will and testament; and I hereby give to my
 “ dear son-in-law, the Hon. Edward Harbord, one
 “ sum not exceeding five thousand pounds, to-
 “ wards the purchase of a seat in Parliament; as
 “ witness my hand, this 22d day of August,
 “ 1812. “ VERNON.”

We do not mean to insinuate that this particular borough, or any other specific place, was to be purchased with the above sum, but to shew the traffic which generally prevails, and which a cabinet minister declared in the House of Commons,
 “ was as glaring as the sun at noon-day!!!”

LUDLOW.

LUDLOW, a borough, market-town, and parish in the hundred of Munslow, Salop, situated at the confluence of the Teme and Curve, 29 miles from Shrewsbury, and 142 from London; containing 780 houses and 3,897 inhabitants, viz. 1,780 males

and 2,117 females, of whom 503 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. During the Earl of Bridgewater's presidency in 1634, Milton's mask of Comus was first performed here, principally by his lordship's sons and daughters. The situation is beautiful, standing on a rock, shaded on the west by a lofty hill, and washed by the river. The markets are on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, but that on Monday is the principal. Fairs, Tuesday before Easter, Wednesday in Whitsun-week, 21st August, 8th September, and 8th December. The races here are generally very numerously attended.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough first sent members to Parliament in the 12th of Edward IV.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 12, 1597. Sir George Moor reported, that the difference of the returns for this borough arose from the sheriff directing his precept to the bailiff in the *singular* number, whereas it should have been to the bailiffs in the *plural*.

The House divided upon, Whether the sheriff might through haste, or want of experience, run into error, ought to be punished, or the town, which had (as might be well concluded) wilfully made use of this error.

No report appears.

April 14, 1614. Mr. Fuller reported, that by general consent Mr. Berry, bailiff of Ludlow, who has returned himself, should be removed.

Resolved, unanimously, "That he should be removed principally because he has openly confessed he was bailiff, &c."

Mr. Ashley moved, Whether any mayor or bailiff who returns himself may serve as a member of this House?

Another question arose, Whether all mayors and bailiffs who are in Berry's case shall be removed?

Resolved in the affirmative.

Feb. 26, 1661. Sergeant Charleton reported, that the committee had considered of the petition of Samuel Baldwin, esq., against Sergeant Littleton, and the question was touching the manner of summons, and whether the right of election was in a select number of 12 aldermen and 25 others of the common council, or in them and all the common burgesses resident in the town? and the committee were of opinion, "That the summons being in the usual form was good, and that all the common burgesses resident within the 12th and 15th had the right of election;" also that Sergeant Littleton was duly elected.

To which the House agreed.

March 24, 1689. A petition of Fitton Gerrard and Francis Lloyd, esqrs., shewing that this town, being a borough, was incorporated by Edward I., *anno* 1, and that the late Chancellor Jeffreys, when chief justice of Chester, extorted a surrender from the said town of all its powers of electing bailiffs, aldermen, and all other subordinate officers, down to the very attorneys of the town court, which surrender was acknowledged and enrolled by one

Cole, as head bailiff of the town, although he was then out of office, and another sworn in his place, whereupon the late King James incorporated the said town, by the name of the mayor, aldermen, and common-councilmen, (whereas it was before incorporated by the name of the mayor, burgesses, and *commonalty*,) with a reservation to remove such officers at pleasure, &c., &c. The petitioners also complained of the illegal return of Thomas Hanmer and William Gower, esqrs.

Oct. 6, 1690. Another petition from the same against the same return.

Oct. 14. A petition of the inhabitants of this borough, complaining of an undue election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough.

Dec. 22. Mr. Gray reported, That the borough of Ludlow is a very ancient corporation, and was incorporated by Henry IV. by the name of the bailiffs, burgesses, and *commonalty*, with a grant, *burgensibus villæ de Ludlow*, to send members to Parliament: that this corporation being served with a *quo warranto*, did, on the 27th of October, 36 Car. II., make a surrender of their franchise; and that afterwards, the late King James granted to the said borough a new charter, which constituted a mayor, and therein names their first officers, and appoints the election of officers, and particularly of burgesses to Parliament, to be by 12 aldermen and 12 capital burgesses, reserving to the said king a power, by any order or direction signified to the lord president of the council of Wales, to remove any of the officers named in the charter, or thereafter to be elected, and so often as the lord

president should deem fit. In execution of this power, King James did, on the 11th of November, 1688, under his sign manual, require the lord president to remove and displace all the officers, that the corporation might be dissolved, and that one Sullivan and others carried this writing to the Duke of Beaufort, the then lord president.

Upon the whole, the committee resolved,

“ That the new charter granted to this borough by the late King James, whereby the ancient method of electing burgesses for Parliament is altered, is illegal and void.”

“ That Fitton Gerrard, Francis Llyod, Thomas Hanmer, and William Gower, esqrs., are not duly elected.”

To which resolutions (being read twice) the House agreed, and a new writ was ordered.

Oct. 22, 1691. A petition of Thomas Hanmer and William Gower, esqrs., against the return of Colonel Titus and Francis Lloyd, esqrs.

Resolved: “ That Silas Titus and Francis Lloyd, esqrs., are duly elected.”

Nov. 22, 1695. A petition of Francis Lloyd, esq., complaining of an undue election and return for this borough.

Jan. 16, 1696. Petition withdrawn.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of the Hon. Thomas Newport, and one from Thomas Farmer, and other burgesses, against the return of William Gower, esq.

March 1, 1699. Sir Rowland Gwyn reported, that the first question was, Whether the sons of

burgesses, or such as married burgesses daughters, had right to be made burgesses? and the second question was, Whether the petitions of such persons, so claiming, ought to be signed by the petitioners?

The committee resolved,

That the sons of burgesses of this borough, and those who marry the daughters of burgesses, have a right to be made burgesses of this borough."

"That every person, having a right to be made a burgess of this borough, *ought to demand such his right by petition*, signed by the petitioner, according to the bye-law made in 1663, and not otherwise."

"That William Gower, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

The first and second resolutions, being read twice, were agreed to by the House, but the third was disagreed to: and,

Resolved: "That Thomas Newport, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

Jan. 3, 1701. A petition of William Gower, esq., against the return of Francis Herbert, esq., by means of bribery, corruption, and other illegal practices.

No decision.

May 29, 1715. A petition of Acton Baldwin, esq., against the return of Francis Herbert and Humphrey Walcott, esqrs., by means of bribery, &c., &c.

Feb. 1, 1716. Petition withdrawn.

CORPORATION,

By charter *anno* 3 Charles I., consists of two bailiffs, 20 aldermen, and 48 common-councilmen; but by charter of James II., it consists of two bailiffs, ten other aldermen, 25 common-councilmen, a recorder, town-clerk, steward, chamberlain, and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Feb. 26, 1661. Is in all the resident common burgesses, as well as the twelve and twenty-five.

Dec. 22, 1690. The new charter granted to the town of Ludlow by the late King James, whereby the ancient method of electing burgesses for Parliament is altered, is illegal and void.

March 1, 1698. The sons of burgesses of Ludlow, and those that marry the daughters of burgesses, have a right to be made burgesses of the said borough.

Every person having a right to be made a burgess of the borough of Ludlow, ought to demand such his right by petition, signed by the petitioner, according to the bye-law made in the year 1663, and not otherwise.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—nearly 500.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the two Bailiffs.

PATRON—Earl of Powis.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

There has been no contest for this borough in our remembrance. It submits implicitly to the nomination of its patron.

WENLOCK.

WENLOCK, MUCH, or GREAT, a borough, market-town, and parish, situated in a division of Shropshire called Wenlock franchise, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Bridgenorth, and 151 from London; containing 467 houses, and 1,981 inhabitants.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough, by charter of Edward IV., *anno* 1478, had the privilege of sending one member to Parliament, which, as Dr. Willis writes, was the first charter of the kind.

PETITIONS, &c. Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Sir Robert Lawley, bart., and Richard Lawley, esq., against the return of Sir William Forester and George Weld, esq., by means of bribery and other undue practices.

A petition of several burgesses residing and inhabiting within the parish of Wenlock, complaining of the same return.

No report appears.

Oct. 19, 1722. A petition of Sir Thomas Lawley, bart., and Edward Cesset, esq., against the return of Sir Humphrey Briggs and Samuel Edwards, esq., by means of many indirect and corrupt practices.

No report.

CORPORATION,

By charter, *anno* 7 Charles I., consists of a bailiff, recorder, two other justices, and 12 peers or capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Corporation and Burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—100.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

PROPRIETORS—Lord Bradford and Cecil Weld Forester, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This town is also called Much-Wenlock; but from its being an ill-built dirty little place, consisting only of two ordinary streets, it is called *Muck-Wenlock* by way of derision.

The villages of Little Wenlock and Brosely are within the limits of this borough, the whole of which is the property of Lord Bradford and Mr. Forester, the present member. The advowson of the living belongs to Sir Watkin Williams Wynne.

This insignificant borough is the first that ever sent members to Parliament by virtue of a charter from the crown, which was granted by King Edward IV., 29th November, 1478, who, by his authority delegated to them the power of sending *one* member to Parliament.

This monarch was seated upon a throne tottering with the uncertainty of its possessor, who had been obliged, in his passage to it, to wade through a sea of blood. An act committed in that day of danger and perplexity could not be a pre-

cedent sufficiently respectable to vest future kings with an authority to grant the same privileges, when and where it should seem expedient to them, and particularly when no such power was committed to them by the constitution of this country. The act of union having limited the number of members of Parliament for England to five hundred and thirteen, and that of Scotland to forty-five, has now prevented the future exercise of this extraordinary prerogative.

BISHOPS' CASTLE.

BISHOPS' CASTLE, a market-town, and parish in the hundred of Purslow, Salop, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Montgomery, and 160 from London; situated on the river Clun; and containing 267 houses, and 1,313 inhabitants. It takes its name from having formerly had a stately castle, the residence of its bishops. The market, on Friday, is well supplied with cattle and provisions, and the town has a tolerable trade, through its great intercourse with Wales.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, and was called upon to return members to Parliament in the 27th year of her reign.

PETITIONS, &c. April 8, 1695. A petition of Richard Moor, esq., against the return of Henry Newton, esq.

No report appears.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of Sir Gilbert Gerrard, bart., against the return of Sir William Brounlow, bart., by means of bribery, and the arbitrary conduct of Walter Woolaston the bailiff of this borough.

Feb. 4, 1700. The committee resolved, "That Sir William Brounlow, bart., is not duly elected."

"That Sir Gilbert Gerrard, bart., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

The first resolution, on a division was agreed to, but the second was disagreed to, and resolved, "The election to be void,"—also

Resolved, "That it appearing the burgesses of the said borough have been notoriously guilty of bribery; that no new writ do issue during this session, for electing another burgess for this borough."

Feb. 13, 1700. A petition of Sir William Brounlow, bart., against the return of Charles Mason, (son of Thomas Mason, the present bailiff), who is guilty of bribery and other corrupt practices.

Feb. 17, —. A petition of Sir Gilbert Gerrard, bart., against the return of George Walcott, esq., by means of treats, rewards, menaces, and other corrupt practices.

May 13, —. Sir Rowland Gwyn reported on the petition of Sir William Brounlow against Mr. Mason, and Sir Gilbert Gerrard, against Mr. Walcott.

The committee resolved,

"That Charles Mason, esq., is not duly elected,

and that he is guilty of notorious bribery in endeavouring to procure himself to be returned a burgess for this borough."

"That George Walcott, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

These resolutions, being read twice, were agreed to by the House,"—and

Ordered, "That no warrant do issue this session for a new writ, for the election of a burgess for this borough."

"That Charles Mason, esq., for his offence be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Jan. 3, 1701. A petition of George Walcott, esq., against Charles Mason, esq., for bribery and other illegal practices.

Resolved, "That Charles Mason, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

"That George Walcott, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

April 2, 1702. A motion was made that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the clerk of the crown to make out a new writ for a burgess in the room of Charles Mason, esq.

Negatived.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Richard Harnage, esq., against Charles Mason, esq., and Henry Brett, esq., for bribery and other indirect means.

10th. A petition of Charles Walcott, esq., to the same effect.

Jan. 17. Ordered, "That Mr. Harnage have leave to withdraw his petition."

Feb. 4th. Ordered, "That Mr. Walcott have leave to withdraw his petition."

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Charles Mason, esq. against Richard Harnage, esq., for bribery, menaces, and treats by himself and his agents.

No determination.

March 5, 1713. A petition of Sir Charles Lloyd, bart., against Sir Robert Rymond, and Richard Harnage, the latter for not taking the oath of qualification, and both for bribery, treats, &c., &c.

No determination.

March 31, 1715. A petition of Edward Lord Harley, against Charles Mason, and Richard Harnage, esqrs., for bribery and other illegal practices, and representing that Charles Mason was not qualified.

No determination.

Oct. 19, 1722. A petition of Charles Mason, esq., against Bowater Vernon, esq., for notorious bribery.

April 26, 1726. Mr. Gibbon reported the state of the poll was,

For Mr. Vernon.....52

Mr. Mason.....16

That the petitioner's counsel objected bribery to all Mr. Vernon's voters and called the following persons who said they had received money to vote for Mr. Vernon, viz.

David Adams £12 0 0

John Richards (and wife) 13 7 0

Stephen Lloyd (and wife) 13 1 0

Samuel Richards, junr. 12 0 0

Samuel Lloyd	£13	1	0
Richard Colbatch	12	1	0
John Bright	30	0	0
Robert Minton, junr.	25	0	0
Nine others	117	9	0
John Woollaston	6	6	0
Jeremiah Brown, junr.	52	10	0
Walter Woollaston and 4 others, £24 each	96	0	0
John Compson and ten others, £12 each	132	0	0
Six others, £6 each	36	0	0
Three others, £12 each	36	0	0
John Jones	21	0	0
Richard Moore	12	0	0
John Seyes	28	1	0

Several of the witnesses also said that most of the voters thus bribed were tenants to the petitioner, and always in his interest, and that in general they declared they would have voted for the petitioner, but for the sitting member's money.

Resolved, "That Bowater Vernon is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

"That Charles Mason is duly elected a burgess in this present Parliament for this borough;" read twice, and agreed to by the House, and the return ordered to be amended.

Nov. 14, 1754. Sir Robert de Cornwall, bart., petitioned, but afterwards requested leave to withdraw it, which was granted.

Nov. 25, 1762. Walter Waring, esq., petitioned against George Clive's election; on Feb. 3,

1764, he requested leave to withdraw it, which was granted.

Nov. 12, 1802. R. B. Robson, and J. C. Kinchant petitioned; tried May 12, 1803, and Sir George Cornwall, chairman of the committee, reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected, and that the petitions were frivolous and vexatious.

CORPORATION

Consists of a bailiff, recorder, and fifteen aldermen, out of whom the bailiff is annually chosen, and is justice of the peace and quorum for that and the ensuing year.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Bailiff and all the Burgesses within the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 60.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

PROPRIETOR—Earl of Powys.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough is entirely under the direction of the Earl of Powys, who is proprietor of the greatest part of it. The right of voting is in the burgesses who are inhabitants.

Wenlock and this are the only two places which come under the description of propriety boroughs in this county; the number of voters not exceeding one hundred in either. The rights are nearly the same in each, only that residence is not a requisite qualification in a burgess of Wenlock.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

SOMERSETSHIRE is bounded on the north by Gloucestershire, the Irish sea and the Severn ; on the east by Wiltshire and Dorsetshire ; on the south by Dorsetshire, and on the west and south-west by Devonshire ; being 68 miles in length and 47 in breadth, containing 991,360 acres of land, having 330,000 acres arable, and 534,500 in pasturage. It is divided into 43 hundreds, viz. Ab-dick and Bulstone, Andersfield, Bathforum, Bempstone, Brent and Wrington, Bruton, Cannington, Carhampton, Catash, Chew, Chewton, Crewkerne, Curry north, Ferris Norton, Frome, Glaston, Hartcliffe and Bedminster, Horethorne, Hounborough, Keynsham, Kilmersden, Kingsbury, Martock, Milverton, Petherton, north and south, Pitney, Portbury, Somerton, Stone, Taunton, Tintinhull, Wellow, Wellsforum, Whitestone, Whitley, Willerton, and Winterstock. The whole containing two cities, Bath and Wells, (exclusive of part of the city of Bristol) five boroughs, Bridgewater, Ilchester, Milbourne-port, Minehead and Taunton, and 22 market-towns : Axbridge, Bruton, Castle Cary, Chard, Crewkerne, Dulverton, Dunster, Frome, Selwood, Glastonbury, Ilminster, Keynsham, Langport, North Curry, Petherton, Shepton Mallet, Somerton, Stowey, Watchet, Wellington, Wincanton,

Wiveliscomb and Yeovil, 480 parishes, 48,040 houses, inhabited by 273,750 persons, viz. 126,927 males, and 146,823 females, of whom 54,053 were employed in trade and manufactures, and 61,434 in agriculture. The amount of the assessment under the act for laying a tax on property in 1806, was £4,055,356, and the amount of the poor's rates in 1803 was £151,237, being at the rate of 4s. 2d. in the pound, and the average scale of mortality for 10 years appears to have been as one to 54½ of the existing population. It sends 16 members to Parliament, is included in the western circuit, the province of Canterbury and in the diocese of Bath and Wells. The rivers of Somersetshire are numerous, but not large, their course being chiefly within the county. Few counties contain a greater variety of soil and situation than Somersetshire; the north-eastern part is in general stony and possesses a lofty mineral tract, called the *Mendip Hills*, affording abundance of coal, lead, and calamine; the lead is particularly hard, and is mostly exported for making bullets and shot; the calamine is sent to Bristol, being used in the making of brass. Copper, maganese, bole, and red oker are also found in these hills, the tops of which are large swampy flats, dangerous to cross. Below them on the banks of the Ax is Cheddar, celebrated for its cheeses, which in size and richness, are said to exceed any in the kingdom. Much cheese is made in the lower parts of the county in general, and of which a great deal is exported. Many cattle of bulk nearly equal to the Lincolnshire are fed in the luxuriant meadows

about the head of the Parret. The crops of corn are so considerable, that it forms a considerable branch of traffic with different parts of the kingdom. Wood is exceedingly plentiful in most parts of the county, and grows to the greatest state of perfection.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county was formerly under one and the same sheriff with Dorsetshire. It has returned knights to Parliament from the 22d Edward the First.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 9, 1640. A petition of the freeholders, complaining of an undue return.

Nov. 9, 1666. Sir Job Carleton reports from the committee of elections, touching the election of a knight for this county, between Sir John Warre, and Sir John Sydenham; that the committee had fully examined the matter, and heard the evidence on both sides; and were of opinion that Sir John Warre was duly elected, and ought to sit: whereto the House agreed.

April 5, 1690. A petition of John Speke, esq., against Sir Edward Phillips, and Nathaniel Palmer, esq.

No report.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The freeholders of this county have, in their political character of electing their representatives, held out to all the people of England an example the most worthy of their imitation. At a former

county meeting, convened for the purpose of nominating the members, previous to the day of election, they resolved, and agreed unanimously, not to give their votes either to the brother or son of a peer of the realm, nor to any candidate supported by such an interest. By this conduct they have manifested their knowledge of the constitution of their country, and their zeal for its prosperity, in keeping the democratic part independent of, and unmixed, as it certainly ought to be, with the aristocratic. If this doctrine was universally understood, and generally practised, our representatives would be elected by, and out of, ourselves, who are better acquainted with our own interests, and necessarily more anxious to promote them than those who are constitutionally separated from us, and who, from that and other circumstances, consider the people as an order of beings distinct from themselves, and value them only in proportion as they are serviceable, or instrumental to their own consequence, pride, and ambition.

Thomas Buckler Lethbridge, esq., was chosen member for this county at the general election in 1807, in opposition to William Gore Langton, esq., who had been the honest and independent representative of the freeholders in four successive Parliaments, but Mr. Lethbridge had given such universal disgust to his constituents, by his motion against Sir Francis Burdett, which was afterwards the cause of that gentleman being committed to the Tower, for writing a letter to the electors of Westminster, in which he denied the power of the House to commit a British subject without a

trial and conviction by his peers, and which the House of Commons was pleased to deem a libel, the whole county appeared incensed against him, and opened subscriptions in every part to oppose his re-election, and support their old favourite, Mr. Gore Langton.

Mr. Lethbridge, however, feeling the sense of the county, retired from the storm, and at the next general election in 1812, Mr. Gore Langton was unanimously elected in conjunction with Mr. Dickenson.

The noblemen of this county are the Duke of Somerset, Earl Paulet, Earl of Egremont, Earl of Egmout, &c., but they have no influence upon the election of its members.

BRISTOL.

BRISTOL is a city in the hundred of Barton Regis, Gloucestershire, 112½ miles from London, by Marshfield, and 121 by Bath, distance from the latter 14 miles. It is situated on the rivers Avon and Frome, being partly in the county of Gloucester, and partly in Somerset; but before it was made a county of itself, it was reckoned in the parliament rolls, in Somersetshire, and King Henry VIII. made it a bishopric. The city contains 10,403 houses, and 63,645 inhabitants, of whom it is remarkable that 26,943 are males, and 36,702 are females, of this number 10,190 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. This population includes the parishes of Clifton,

Mangotsfield, and Stapleton, in the hundred of Barton Regis, or out parishes; but this edition is offset by the parish of Bedminster, containing 3,278 persons who are not included, because situated in the county of Somerset. This city is supposed to have acquired near 8,000 houses since the commencement of the 18th century. The common sewers, which run through the streets, render the whole city remarkably clean. Carts are not admitted in the streets for fear of damaging the arches of the vaults and gutters that are made under ground for conveying the soil into the rivers; on this account every thing is conveyed by sledges, to the no small danger of the foot passengers. The quay is above a mile in length, reaching from St. Giles's to Bristol bridge, and is all the way embanked by a firm wall, coped with hewn stone; the whole is not impeded by the buildings, which lie a considerable way back, so that it is one continued quay. Here is a dock which will contain ten sail of large vessels, and further on there is another where a building is erected on 14 pillars of cast-iron, being a crane, a curious piece of mechanism, for loading and unloading ships: from which to the mouth of the river Frome, the quay is called the Gibb. Here are some considerable woollen manufactures, and no less than 15 glass-houses, for which Kingswood and Mendip furnish the coals. There are 13 city companies, several of whom have some elegant halls, particularly the Merchants' hall in Princes-street. The city is divided into 12 wards, having an alderman to preside over each. The

mayor, &c. holds a quarter sessions, and a court of requests is held every Monday for the recovery of debts under 40s. and the two sheriffs hold a pie-powder-court every year in autumn under the piazza, in the old market. All persons are free to trade here, and the freedom of the city can be purchased at a very moderate sum. Market days, Wednesday and Saturday for butcher's meat, poultry, &c. There is an astonishing plenty and variety of provisions, fruit, and vegetables in the markets, perhaps unequalled in England, as well as for their reasonable price. Here the famous Thomas Chatterton was born, his father being sexton of St. Mary's Redcliffe. According to the return of the parish register, the burials appear to have averaged on the last four years as one in 5 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the population; but it is to be observed, that there are four parish burial-grounds opened of late years, where the persons buried are not registered. Fairs, 1st March, in Temple-street, and the 1st Sept. in St. James's church-yard, the last chiefly for horses.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city returned burgesses to Parliament in the 23d of Edward the First, and as it appears from that time to the 47th of Edward the Third, when it was made a county within itself.

PETITIONS, &c. May 16, 1661. Sergeant Carleton reports a double return, That Thomas Earl of Ossory, and John Knight, esq., were returned by one indenture, and that Sir Humphrey Hooke, knt., and John Knight, esq., by another.

Whereupon two petitions were preferred.

Oct. 30, 1666. Resolved, "That Sir Humphrey Hooke was duly elected, and ought to sit, to which the House agreed."

Ordered, "That the now mayor heretofore sheriff for the city of Bristol, be committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms, for his misdemeanor, in making a false return for the said city."

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of Robert Henly.

Oct. 28th. An information being given, the House against Sir Robert Yeamans of Bristol, and against Sir Robert Canne, a member of this House; that they did, in October, 1679, publicly declare, that there was no popish plot, but a presbyterian plot.

Resolved, "That Sir Robert Canne is guilty of publicly declaring in the city of Bristol in Oct. 1679, that there was no popish plot, but a presbyterian plot."

Ordered, "That Sir Robert Canne be committed to the prison of the Tower."

Ordered, "That Sir Robert Canne be expelled this House."

Nov. 8. A petition of Sir Robert Canne, knt., and bart.

Ordered, "That Sir Robert Canne be discharged from his imprisonment."

Dec. 20. Mr. Treby reported, "That the committee, having taken the matter of Mr. Henly's petition, concerning the election for this city into consideration,"

Resolved, "That Sir Robert Canne was not

duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for the said city."

Resolved, "That the election for the said city is a void election."

Mr. Treby also reported, "That Sir John Lloyd, late mayor, William Jackson, and William Clutterbuck, sheriffs of the said city, did, at the time of the said election, impose an oath upon the electors before they came to give their votes, in these words: viz. 'You shall swear that you are a freeman, and that you have not given your voice already.'"

Ordered, "That Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant for a new writ, for electing a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

March 24. A petition of Sir Robert Atkins, knight of the Bath, and Sir John Knight and others, burgesses and freeholders of this city, touching the election for the said city.

The Parliament being in a few days after dissolved, it was not heard.

March 24, 1689. A petition of William Powlet, sergeant at law, and Robert Yate, merchant, against Sir Richard Hart, and Sir John Knight.

No determination.

March 4, 1713. A petition of Sir Wm. Daines, knt., against Colonel Joseph Earle, and Thomas Edwards, junr., esq.

No report.

March 31, 1715. A petition of Philip Freke, and Thomas Edwards, junr., esqrs., against Sir William Daines, and Joseph Earle, esq.

No determination.

Oct. 11, 1722. William Hart, esq., petitioned.

Jan. 23, 1735. Mayor, &c., petitioned on behalf of John Scrope, esq.

The petition partly heard, and then withdrawn.

March 20, 1775. Matthew Brickdale, esq., petitioned against the return of Edmund Burke, esq., and Henry Cruger, esq.

Sitting members declared duly elected.

Oct. 31, 1780. Henry Cruger, petitioned against the return of George Dawbeney, esq.

May 18, 1784. George Dawbeney, esq., petitioned against the return of Henry Cruger, esq., as did several voters against Mr. Brickdale's election.

The sitting members declared duly elected.

—, 1812. Henry Hunt, esq., petitioned against the return of Richard Hart Davis, esq., and Edward Protheroe, esq.

Sitting members declared duly elected.

CORPORATION

Consists of twelve aldermen, the mayor and recorder being two of that number, two sheriffs, and forty-eight common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Freeholders, having freeholds of forty shillings a-year, and the Free Burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—near 6000.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Sheriffs.

The counsel for the petitioners contended, on the contrary, that under circumstances like those of the present case, two verdicts, free from all suspicion of collusion, (the two mayors against whom both the verdicts had been found, having continued to be warm partizans of the sitting members at the election, unimpeached, and not disapproved by the judge,) would be conclusive evidence *as to the customs*, even in a court of law, because the parties to be bound by them on a new *mandamus* would be the same; viz. the corporation of Shrewsbury; that on two such verdicts, a court of equity would make a decree to establish a custom, and would not grant a third trial; but that if this were otherwise, a committee of the House of Commons would never suffer two solemn verdicts, and consequent judgments of the only court competent to such causes, to be called in question before them. They said, that even in the Middlesex case, nobody had ever attempted to impeach the verdict finding Mr. Wilkes guilty of the libel.

The counsel for the sitting members cited several cases, where courts of law had granted new trials after two concordant verdicts, and others where courts of equity had done the same. But they were all shewn to be cases where the judge who tried the cause signified his disapprobation of the verdict; and besides, it was said, that a verdict *before judgment*, once set aside, is considered as if it never had existed.

On the other side, the cases of the Duke of Beaufort, and of Manchester Mills, were cited

among others. The latter came on in the duchy court before Lord Kinnoul, assisted by Lord Mansfield, who said on that occasion, that a verdict in the time of Charles I. (which was produced in the cause,) was conclusive evidence of the custom. After this point had been argued, and the counsel directed to withdraw, the committee, after a short deliberation,

Resolved, not to admit any evidence to impeach the two verdicts, but to consider them as conclusive evidence of the customs.

The sitting members' counsel then endeavoured to prove,

That the rejected voters had not applied in the proper manner, and according to the established usage, to be admitted to the freedom.

But it came out from the evidence, that the mode of their application was regular.

They then contended, that, as the title of those men to their freedom was in suspense, and under litigation in Westminster-hall, when their votes were rejected, they could not be of any avail as to this election; for that in instances where the votes of men, who had applied for their freedom and were refused, and have been allowed, on proving their titles, the case had been always such as to satisfy the committee, or the House, that there was no just ground for refusing them, and that it was done by concert with a candidate, and in order to affect the election.

The committee however, on the same day, (Wednesday the 8th of March,) informed the

House by their chairman, that they had determined, that William Pulteney, esq., was duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

This town is remarkable for one of the most expensive contests in the election annals of this country. It happened at the general election in 1796, between the families of Lord Berwick of Attingham, and the late Sir Richard Hill of Hawkestone. The brothers of these competitors were the candidates; and it ended, after an expense of more than one hundred thousand pounds, in favour of the Hon. William Hill, brother of Lord Berwick, who represented this place in four successive Parliaments, and then resigned his pretensions to Sir Rowland Hill, son of his former opponent, who was soon after created a peer, and both families have retired from the representation.

The other seat has been contested between the late Sir Thomas Tyrwhit Jones, bart., and the Hon. Henry Grey Bennet, second son of the Earl of Tankerville, with alternate success.

At the last general election, in 1812, there was a contest, when the numbers on the poll were as follow—

Hon. Henry Grey Bennet724

Sir Rowland Hill, K. B.....512

William Benyon, esq.336

On Sir Rowland Hill being created Lord Hill, Richard Lyster, esq., was elected, in opposition to Mr. Benyon.

This town acknowledges no patron, being perfectly independent.

BRIDGENORTH.

BRIDGENORTH, a borough and market-town in the hundred of Stoddendon, Salop, 22 miles from Shrewsbury, 13 from Kidderminster, and 140 from London. The river Severn divides the town into two parts, over which there is a handsome bridge of seven arches. The town consists of two parishes, St. Leonard and St. Mary Magdalen, containing 910 houses and 4,319 inhabitants, of whom 3,800 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacturing cloth, stockings, and iron tools, besides all handicrafts in common with other towns in England. It is a place of great trade both by land and water. Its market is on Saturday, and it has four fairs; Thursday before Shrove-Sunday, June 30, August 2, and October 29; resorted to from most parts of the kingdom for cattle, sheep, butter, cheese, bacon, &c., the latter of which continues three days.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough sent members to Parliament as early as Shrewsbury.

PETITIONS, &c. March 28, 1679. A petition of John Wolrick, esq., complaining of undue practices in the bailiffs of Bruges, *alias* Brigenorth, in electing and returning Sir William and Sir Thomas Whitemore, in injury of the petitioner, who was duly elected one of the burgesses of this borough.

No report appears.

Dec. 14, 1698. A petition of Roger Pope, esq., against the return of Sir Edward Acton, by means of corrupt and undue practices.

No report appears.

Dec. 4, 1710. A petition of Sir Humphrey Briggs, bart., and William Whitmore, esq., against the return of Whitmore Acton and Richard Acton, esqrs., by means of bribery and other unwarrantable practices.

No decision.

Feb. —, 1735. Sir Robert Lawley and Sir Richard Acton, bart., petitioned.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by two bailiffs, annually elected out of 24 aldermen, by a jury of 14 men, together with a recorder, 48 common-councilmen, a town-clerk, and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Burgesses and Freemen, within and without the borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 700.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Bailiffs.

PATRON—Thomas Whitmore, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The family of Whitmore of Apley, a seat in the neighbourhood of this borough, have represented it in different Parliaments ever since the reign of James I., and retain the nomination of one of its members to this day. We find the name of Whitmore in every Parliament representing this bo-

rough, with only five exceptions, ever since the Restoration, and frequently they have returned both members. The patronage of many places is hereditary, like a peerage; in others it is transferable, like the stocks, and as marketable as any other commodity; as a proof of which, we extract the following provision from the seventh codicil of the will of the late Right Hon. George Venables, Lord Vernon, as proved on Friday the 30th of July, 1814.

“ I hereby declare this to be a codicil to my last
 “ will and testament; and I hereby give to my
 “ dear son-in-law, the Hon. Edward Harbord, one
 “ sum not exceeding five thousand pounds, to-
 “ wards the purchase of a seat in Parliament; as
 “ witness my hand, this 22d day of August,
 “ 1812. “ VERNON.”

We do not mean to insinuate that this particular borough, or any other specific place, was to be purchased with the above sum, but to shew the traffic which generally prevails, and which a cabinet minister declared in the House of Commons,
 “ was as glaring as the sun at noon-day!!!”

LUDLOW.

LUDLOW, a borough, market-town, and parish in the hundred of Munslow, Salop, situated at the confluence of the Teme and Curve, 29 miles from Shrewsbury, and 142 from London; containing 780 houses and 3,897 inhabitants, viz. 1,780 males

and 2,117 females, of whom 503 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. During the Earl of Bridgewater's presidency in 1634, Milton's mask of Comus was first performed here, principally by his lordship's sons and daughters. The situation is beautiful, standing on a rock, shaded on the west by a lofty hill, and washed by the river. The markets are on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, but that on Monday is the principal. Fairs, Tuesday before Easter, Wednesday in Whitsun-week, 21st August, 8th September, and 8th December. The races here are generally very numerously attended.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough first sent members to Parliament in the 12th of Edward IV.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 12, 1597. Sir George Moor reported, that the difference of the returns for this borough arose from the sheriff directing his precept to the bailiff in the *singular* number, whereas it should have been to the bailiffs in the *plural*.

The House divided upon, Whether the sheriff might through haste, or want of experience, run into error, ought to be punished, or the town, which had (as might be well concluded) wilfully made use of this error.

No report appears.

April 14, 1614. Mr. Fuller reported, that by general consent Mr. Berry, bailiff of Ludlow, who has returned himself, should be removed.

Resolved, unanimously, "That he should be removed principally because he has openly confessed he was bailiff, &c."

Mr. Ashley moved, Whether any mayor or bailiff who returns himself may serve as a member of this House?

Another question arose, Whether all mayors and bailiffs who are in Berry's case shall be removed?

Resolved in the affirmative.

Feb. 26, 1661. Sergeant Charleton reported, that the committee had considered of the petition of Samuel Baldwin, esq., against Sergeant Littleton, and the question was touching the manner of summons, and whether the right of election was in a select number of 12 aldermen and 25 others of the common council, or in them and all the common burgesses resident in the town? and the committee were of opinion, "That the summons being in the usual form was good, and that all the common burgesses resident within the 12th and 15th had the right of election;" also that Sergeant Littleton was duly elected.

To which the House agreed.

March 24, 1689. A petition of Fitton Gerrard and Francis Lloyd, esqrs., shewing that this town, being a borough, was incorporated by Edward I., *anno* 1, and that the late Chancellor Jeffreys, when chief justice of Chester, extorted a surrender from the said town of all its powers of electing bailiffs, aldermen, and all other subordinate officers, down to the very attorneys of the town court, which surrender was acknowledged and enrolled by one

Cole, as head bailiff of the town, although he was then out of office, and another sworn in his place, whereupon the late King James incorporated the said town, by the name of the mayor, aldermen, and common-councilmen, (whereas it was before incorporated by the name of the mayor, burgesses, and *commonalty*,) with a reservation to remove such officers at pleasure, &c., &c. The petitioners also complained of the illegal return of Thomas Hanmer and William Gower, esqrs.

Oct. 6, 1690. Another petition from the same against the same return.

Oct. 14. A petition of the inhabitants of this borough, complaining of an undue election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough.

Dec. 22. Mr. Gray reported, That the borough of Ludlow is a very ancient corporation, and was incorporated by Henry IV. by the name of the bailiffs, burgesses, and *commonalty*, with a grant, *burgensibus villæ de Ludlow*, to send members to Parliament: that this corporation being served with a *quo warranto*, did, on the 27th of October, 36 Car. II., make a surrender of their franchise; and that afterwards, the late King James granted to the said borough a new charter, which constituted a mayor, and therein names their first officers, and appoints the election of officers, and particularly of burgesses to Parliament, to be by 12 aldermen and 12 capital burgesses, reserving to the said king a power, by any order or direction signified to the lord president of the council of Wales, to remove any of the officers named in the charter, or thereafter to be elected, and so often as the lord

president should deem fit. In execution of this power, King James did, on the 11th of November, 1688, under his sign manual, require the lord president to remove and displace all the officers, that the corporation might be dissolved, and that one Sullivan and others carried this writing to the Duke of Beaufort, the then lord president.

Upon the whole, the committee resolved,

“ That the new charter granted to this borough by the late King James, whereby the ancient method of electing burgesses for Parliament is altered, is illegal and void.”

“ That Fitton Gerrard, Francis Llyod, Thomas Hanmer, and William Gower, esqrs., are not duly elected.”

To which resolutions (being read twice) the House agreed, and a new writ was ordered.

Oct. 22, 1691. A petition of Thomas Hanmer and William Gower, esqrs., against the return of Colonel Titus and Francis Lloyd, esqrs.

Resolved: “ That Silas Titus and Francis Lloyd, esqrs., are duly elected.”

Nov. 22, 1695. A petition of Francis Lloyd, esq., complaining of an undue election and return for this borough.

Jan. 16, 1696. Petition withdrawn.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of the Hon. Thomas Newport, and one from Thomas Farmer, and other burgesses, against the return of William Gower, esq.

March 1, 1699. Sir Rowland Gwyn reported, that the first question was, Whether the sons of

burgesses, or such as married burgesses daughters, had right to be made burgesses? and the second question was, Whether the petitions of such persons, so claiming, ought to be signed by the petitioners?

The committee resolved,

That the sons of burgesses of this borough, and those who marry the daughters of burgesses, have a right to be made burgesses of this borough."

"That every person, having a right to be made a burgess of this borough, *ought to demand such his right by petition*, signed by the petitioner, according to the bye-law made in 1663, and not otherwise."

"That William Gower, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

The first and second resolutions, being read twice, were agreed to by the House, but the third was disagreed to: and,

Resolved: "That Thomas Newport, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

Jan. 3, 1701. A petition of William Gower, esq., against the return of Francis Herbert, esq., by means of bribery, corruption, and other illegal practices.

No decision.

May 29, 1715. A petition of Acton Baldwin, esq., against the return of Francis Herbert and Humphrey Walcott, esqrs., by means of bribery, &c., &c.

Feb. 1, 1716. Petition withdrawn.

CORPORATION,

By charter *anno* 3 Charles I., consists of two bailiffs, 20 aldermen, and 48 common-councilmen; but by charter of James II., it consists of two bailiffs, ten other aldermen, 25 common-councilmen, a recorder, town-clerk, steward, chamberlain, and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Feb. 26, 1661. Is in all the resident common burgesses, as well as the twelve and twenty-five.

Dec. 22, 1690. The new charter granted to the town of Ludlow by the late King James, whereby the ancient method of electing burgesses for Parliament is altered, is illegal and void.

March 1, 1698. The sons of burgesses of Ludlow, and those that marry the daughters of burgesses, have a right to be made burgesses of the said borough.

Every person having a right to be made a burgess of the borough of Ludlow, ought to demand such his right by petition, signed by the petitioner, according to the bye-law made in the year 1663, and not otherwise.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—nearly 500.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the two Bailiffs.

PATRON—Earl of Powis.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

There has been no contest for this borough in our remembrance. It submits implicitly to the nomination of its patron.

WENLOCK.

WENLOCK, MUCH, or GREAT, a borough, market-town, and parish, situated in a division of Shropshire called Wenlock franchise, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Bridgenorth, and 151 from London; containing 467 houses, and 1,981 inhabitants.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough, by charter of Edward IV., *anno* 1478, had the privilege of sending one member to Parliament, which, as Dr. Willis writes, was the first charter of the kind.

PETITIONS, &c. Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Sir Robert Lawley, bart., and Richard Lawley, esq., against the return of Sir William Forester and George Weld, esq., by means of bribery and other undue practices.

A petition of several burgesses residing and inhabiting within the parish of Wenlock, complaining of the same return.

No report appears.

Oct. 19, 1722. A petition of Sir Thomas Lawley, bart., and Edward Cesset, esq., against the return of Sir Humphrey Briggs and Samuel Edwards, esq., by means of many indirect and corrupt practices.

No report.

CORPORATION,

By charter, *anno* 7 Charles I., consists of a bailiff, recorder, two other justices, and 12 peers or capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Corporation and Burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—100.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

PROPRIETORS—Lord Bradford and Cecil Weld Forester, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This town is also called Much-Wenlock; but from its being an ill-built dirty little place, consisting only of two ordinary streets, it is called *Muck-Wenlock* by way of derision.

The villages of Little Wenlock and Brosely are within the limits of this borough, the whole of which is the property of Lord Bradford and Mr. Forester, the present member. The advowson of the living belongs to Sir Watkin Williams Wynne.

This insignificant borough is the first that ever sent members to Parliament by virtue of a charter from the crown, which was granted by King Edward IV., 29th November, 1478, who, by his authority delegated to them the power of sending *one* member to Parliament.

This monarch was seated upon a throne tottering with the uncertainty of its possessor, who had been obliged, in his passage to it, to wade through a sea of blood. An act committed in that day of danger and perplexity could not be a pre-

cedent sufficiently respectable to vest future kings with an authority to grant the same privileges, when and where it should seem expedient to them, and particularly when no such power was committed to them by the constitution of this country. The act of union having limited the number of members of Parliament for England to five hundred and thirteen, and that of Scotland to forty-five, has now prevented the future exercise of this extraordinary prerogative.

BISHOPS' CASTLE.

BISHOPS' CASTLE, a market-town, and parish in the hundred of Purslow, Salop, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Montgomery, and 160 from London; situated on the river Clun; and containing 267 houses, and 1,313 inhabitants. It takes its name from having formerly had a stately castle, the residence of its bishops. The market, on Friday, is well supplied with cattle and provisions, and the town has a tolerable trade, through its great intercourse with Wales.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, and was called upon to return members to Parliament in the 27th year of her reign.

PETITIONS, &c. April 8, 1695. A petition of Richard Moor, esq., against the return of Henry Newton, esq.

No report appears.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of Sir Gilbert Gerrard, bart., against the return of Sir William Brounlow, bart., by means of bribery, and the arbitrary conduct of Walter Woolaston the bailiff of this borough.

Feb. 4, 1700. The committee resolved, "That Sir William Brounlow, bart., is not duly elected."

"That Sir Gilbert Gerrard, bart., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

The first resolution, on a division was agreed to, but the second was disagreed to, and resolved, "The election to be void,"—also

Resolved, "That it appearing the burgesses of the said borough have been notoriously guilty of bribery; that no new writ do issue during this session, for electing another burgess for this borough."

Feb. 13, 1700. A petition of Sir William Brounlow, bart., against the return of Charles Mason, (son of Thomas Mason, the present bailiff), who is guilty of bribery and other corrupt practices.

Feb. 17, —. A petition of Sir Gilbert Gerrard, bart., against the return of George Walcott, esq., by means of treats, rewards, menaces, and other corrupt practices.

May 13, —. Sir Rowland Gwyn reported on the petition of Sir William Brounlow against Mr. Mason, and Sir Gilbert Gerrard, against Mr. Walcott.

The committee resolved,

"That Charles Mason, esq., is not duly elected,

and that he is guilty of notorious bribery in endeavouring to procure himself to be returned a burgess for this borough."

"That George Walcott, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

These resolutions, being read twice, were agreed to by the House,"—and

Ordered, "That no warrant do issue this session for a new writ, for the election of a burgess for this borough."

"That Charles Mason, esq., for his offence be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Jan. 3, 1701. A petition of George Walcott, esq., against Charles Mason, esq., for bribery and other illegal practices.

Resolved, "That Charles Mason, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

"That George Walcott, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

April 2, 1702. A motion was made that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the clerk of the crown to make out a new writ for a burgess in the room of Charles Mason, esq.

Negatived.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Richard Harnage, esq., against Charles Mason, esq., and Henry Brett, esq., for bribery and other indirect means.

10th. A petition of Charles Walcott, esq., to the same effect.

Jan. 17. Ordered, "That Mr. Harnage have leave to withdraw his petition."

Feb. 4th. Ordered, "That Mr. Walcott have leave to withdraw his petition."

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Charles Mason, esq. against Richard Harnage, esq., for bribery, menaces, and treats by himself and his agents.

No determination.

March 5, 1713. A petition of Sir Charles Lloyd, bart., against Sir Robert Rymond, and Richard Harnage, the latter for not taking the oath of qualification, and both for bribery, treats, &c., &c.

No determination.

March 31, 1715. A petition of Edward Lord Harley, against Charles Mason, and Richard Harnage, esqrs., for bribery and other illegal practices, and representing that Charles Mason was not qualified.

No determination.

Oct. 19, 1722. A petition of Charles Mason, esq., against Bowater Vernon, esq., for notorious bribery.

April 26, 1726. Mr. Gibbon reported the state of the poll was,

For Mr. Vernon.....52

Mr. Mason.....16

That the petitioner's counsel objected bribery to all Mr. Vernon's voters and called the following persons who said they had received money to vote for Mr. Vernon, viz.

David Adams	£12	0	0
John Richards (and wife)	13	7	0
Stephen Lloyd (and wife)	13	1	0
Samuel Richards, junr.	12	0	0

COUNTIES, CITIES, AND BOROUGHES.

Samuel Lloyd	£13	1	0
Richard Colbatch	12	1	0
John Bright	30	0	0
Robert Minton, junr.	25	0	0
Nine others	117	9	0
John Woollaston	6	6	0
Jeremiah Brown, junr.	52	10	0
Walter Woollaston and 4 others, £24 each	96	0	0
John Compson and ten others, £12 each	132	0	0
Six others, £6 each	36	0	0
Three others, £12 each	36	0	0
John Jones	21	0	0
Richard Moore	12	0	0
John Seyes	28	1	0

Several of the witnesses also said that most of the voters thus bribed were tenants to the petitioner, and always in his interest, and that in general they declared they would have voted for the petitioner, but for the sitting member's money.

Resolved, "That Bowater Vernon is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

"That Charles Mason is duly elected a burgess in this present Parliament for this borough;" read twice, and agreed to by the House, and the return ordered to be amended.

Nov. 14, 1754. Sir Robert de Cornwall, bart., petitioned, but afterwards requested leave to withdraw it, which was granted.

Nov. 25, 1762. Walter Waring, esq., petitioned against George Clive's election; on Feb. 3,

1764, he requested leave to withdraw it, which was granted.

Nov. 12, 1802. R. B. Robson, and J. C. Kinchant petitioned; tried May 12, 1803, and Sir George Cornwall, chairman of the committee, reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected, and that the petitions were frivolous and vexatious.

CORPORATION

Consists of a bailiff, recorder, and fifteen aldermen, out of whom the bailiff is annually chosen, and is justice of the peace and quorum for that and the ensuing year.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Bailiff and all the Burgesses within the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 60.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

PROPRIETOR—Earl of Powys.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough is entirely under the direction of the Earl of Powys, who is proprietor of the greatest part of it. The right of voting is in the burgesses who are inhabitants.

Wenlock and this are the only two places which come under the description of propriety boroughs in this county; the number of voters not exceeding one hundred in either. The rights are nearly the same in each, only that residence is not a requisite qualification in a burgess of Wenlock.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

SOMERSETSHIRE is bounded on the north by Gloucestershire, the Irish sea and the Severn ; on the east by Wiltshire and Dorsetshire ; on the south by Dorsetshire, and on the west and south-west by Devonshire ; being 68 miles in length and 47 in breadth, containing 991,360 acres of land, having 330,000 acres arable, and 534,500 in pasturage. It is divided into 43 hundreds, viz. Ab-dick and Bulstone, Andersfield, Bathforum, Bempstone, Brent and Wrington, Bruton, Cannington, Carhampton, Catash, Chew, Chewton, Crewkerne, Curry north, Ferris Norton, Frome, Glaston, Hartcliffe and Bedminster, Horethorne, Hounborough, Keynsham, Kilmersden, Kingsbury, Martock, Milverton, Petherton, north and south, Pitney, Portbury, Somerton, Stone, Taunton, Tintinhull, Wellow, Wellsforum, Whitestone, Whitley, Willerton, and Winterstock. The whole containing two cities, Bath and Wells, (exclusive of part of the city of Bristol) five boroughs, Bridgewater, Ilchester, Milbourne-port, Minehead and Taunton, and 22 market-towns : Axbridge, Bruton, Castle Cary, Chard, Crewkerne, Dulverton, Dunster, Frome, Selwood, Glastonbury, Ilminster, Keynsham, Langport, North Curry, Petherton, Shepton Mallet, Somerton, Stowey, Watchet, Wellington, Wincanton,

Wiveliscomb and Yeovil, 480 parishes, 48,040 houses, inhabited by 273,750 persons, viz. 126,927 males, and 146,823 females, of whom 54,053 were employed in trade and manufactures, and 61,434 in agriculture. The amount of the assessment under the act for laying a tax on property in 1806, was £4,055,356, and the amount of the poor's rates in 1803 was £151,237, being at the rate of 4s. 2d. in the pound, and the average scale of mortality for 10 years appears to have been as one to 54½ of the existing population. It sends 16 members to Parliament, is included in the western circuit, the province of Canterbury and in the diocese of Bath and Wells. The rivers of Somersetshire are numerous, but not large, their course being chiefly within the county. Few counties contain a greater variety of soil and situation than Somersetshire; the north-eastern part is in general stony and possesses a lofty mineral tract, called the *Mendip Hills*, affording abundance of coal, lead, and calamine; the lead is particularly hard, and is mostly exported for making bullets and shot; the calamine is sent to Bristol, being used in the making of brass. Copper, maganese, bole, and red oker are also found in these hills, the tops of which are large swampy flats, dangerous to cross. Below them on the banks of the Ax is Cheddar, celebrated for its cheeses, which in size and richness, are said to exceed any in the kingdom. Much cheese is made in the lower parts of the county in general, and of which a great deal is exported. Many cattle of bulk nearly equal to the Lincolnshire are fed in the luxuriant meadows

about the head of the Parret. The crops of corn are so considerable, that it forms a considerable branch of traffic with different parts of the kingdom. Wood is exceedingly plentiful in most parts of the county, and grows to the greatest state of perfection.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county was formerly under one and the same sheriff with Dorsetshire. It has returned knights to Parliament from the 22d Edward the First.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 9, 1640. A petition of the freeholders, complaining of an undue return.

Nov. 9, 1666. Sir Job Carleton reports from the committee of elections, touching the election of a knight for this county, between Sir John Warre, and Sir John Sydenham; that the committee had fully examined the matter, and heard the evidence on both sides; and were of opinion that Sir John Warre was duly elected, and ought to sit: whereto the House agreed.

April 5, 1690. A petition of John Speke, esq., against Sir Edward Phillips, and Nathaniel Palmer, esq.

No report.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The freeholders of this county have, in their political character of electing their representatives, held out to all the people of England an example the most worthy of their imitation. At a former

county meeting, convened for the purpose of nominating the members, previous to the day of election, they resolved, and agreed unanimously, not to give their votes either to the brother or son of a peer of the realm, nor to any candidate supported by such an interest. By this conduct they have manifested their knowledge of the constitution of their country, and their zeal for its prosperity, in keeping the democratic part independent of, and unmixed, as it certainly ought to be, with the aristocratic. If this doctrine was universally understood, and generally practised, our representatives would be elected by, and out of, ourselves, who are better acquainted with our own interests, and necessarily more anxious to promote them than those who are constitutionally separated from us, and who, from that and other circumstances, consider the people as an order of beings distinct from themselves, and value them only in proportion as they are serviceable, or instrumental to their own consequence, pride, and ambition.

Thomas Buckler Lethbridge, esq., was chosen member for this county at the general election in 1807, in opposition to William Gore Langton, esq., who had been the honest and independent representative of the freeholders in four successive Parliaments, but Mr. Lethbridge had given such universal disgust to his constituents, by his motion against Sir Francis Burdett, which was afterwards the cause of that gentleman being committed to the Tower, for writing a letter to the electors of Westminster, in which he denied the power of the House to commit a British subject without a

trial and conviction by his peers, and which the House of Commons was pleased to deem a libel, the whole county appeared incensed against him, and opened subscriptions in every part to oppose his re-election, and support their old favourite, Mr. Gore Langton.

Mr. Lethbridge, however, feeling the sense of the county, retired from the storm, and at the next general election in 1812, Mr. Gore Langton was unanimously elected in conjunction with Mr. Dickenson.

The noblemen of this county are the Duke of Somerset, Earl Paulet, Earl of Egremont, Earl of Egmont, &c., but they have no influence upon the election of its members.

BRISTOL.

BRISTOL is a city in the hundred of Barton Regis, Gloucestershire, 112½ miles from London, by Marshfield, and 121 by Bath, distance from the latter 14 miles. It is situated on the rivers Avon and Frome, being partly in the county of Gloucester, and partly in Somerset; but before it was made a county of itself, it was reckoned in the parliament rolls, in Somersetshire, and King Henry VIII. made it a bishopric. The city contains 10,403 houses, and 63,645 inhabitants, of whom it is remarkable that 26,943 are males, and 36,702 are females, of this number 10,190 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. This population includes the parishes of Clifton,

Mangotsfield, and Stapleton, in the hundred of Barton Regis, or out parishes; but this edition is offset by the parish of Bedminster, containing 3,278 persons who are not included, because situated in the county of Somerset. This city is supposed to have acquired near 8,000 houses since the commencement of the 18th century. The common sewers, which run through the streets, render the whole city remarkably clean. Carts are not admitted in the streets for fear of damaging the arches of the vaults and gutters that are made under ground for conveying the soil into the rivers; on this account every thing is conveyed by sledges, to the no small danger of the foot passengers. The quay is above a mile in length, reaching from St. Giles's to Bristol bridge, and is all the way embanked by a firm wall, coped with hewn stone; the whole is not impeded by the buildings, which lie a considerable way back, so that it is one continued quay. Here is a dock which will contain ten sail of large vessels, and further on there is another where a building is erected on 14 pillars of cast-iron, being a crane, a curious piece of mechanism, for loading and unloading ships: from which to the mouth of the river Frome, the quay is called the Gibb. Here are some considerable woollen manufactures, and no less than 15 glass-houses, for which Kingswood and Mendip furnish the coals. There are 13 city companies, several of whom have some elegant halls, particularly the Merchants' hall in Princes-street. The city is divided into 12 wards, having an alderman to preside over each. The

mayor, &c. holds a quarter sessions, and a court of requests is held every Monday for the recovery of debts under 40s. and the two sheriffs hold a pie-powder-court every year in autumn under the piazza, in the old market. All persons are free to trade here, and the freedom of the city can be purchased at a very moderate sum. Market days, Wednesday and Saturday for butcher's meat, poultry, &c. There is an astonishing plenty and variety of provisions, fruit, and vegetables in the markets, perhaps unequalled in England, as well as for their reasonable price. Here the famous Thomas Chatterton was born, his father being sexton of St. Mary's Redcliffe. According to the return of the parish register, the burials appear to have averaged on the last four years as one in 5 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the population; but it is to be observed, that there are four parish burial-grounds opened of late years, where the persons buried are not registered. Fairs, 1st March, in Temple-street, and the 1st Sept. in St. James's church-yard, the last chiefly for horses.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city returned burgesses to Parliament in the 23d of Edward the First, and as it appears from that time to the 47th of Edward the Third, when it was made a county within itself.

PETITIONS, &c. May 16, 1661. Sergeant Carleton reports a double return, That Thomas Earl of Ossory, and John Knight, esq., were returned by one indenture, and that Sir Humphrey Hooke, knt., and John Knight, esq., by another.

Whereupon two petitions were preferred.

Oct. 30, 1666. Resolved, "That Sir Humphrey Hooke was duly elected, and ought to sit, to which the House agreed."

Ordered, "That the now mayor heretofore sheriff for the city of Bristol, be committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms, for his misdemeanor, in making a false return for the said city."

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of Robert Henly.

Oct. 28th. An information being given, the House against Sir Robert Yeamans of Bristol, and against Sir Robert Canne, a member of this House; that they did, in October, 1679, publicly declare, that there was no popish plot, but a presbyterian plot.

Resolved, "That Sir Robert Canne is guilty of publicly declaring in the city of Bristol in Oct. 1679, that there was no popish plot, but a presbyterian plot."

Ordered, "That Sir Robert Canne be committed to the prison of the Tower."

Ordered, "That Sir Robert Canne be expelled this House."

Nov. 8. A petition of Sir Robert Canne, knt., and bart.

Ordered, "That Sir Robert Canne be discharged from his imprisonment."

Dec. 20. Mr. Treby reported, "That the committee, having taken the matter of Mr. Henly's petition, concerning the election for this city into consideration,"

Resolved, "That Sir Robert Canne was not

duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for the said city."

Resolved, "That the election for the said city is a void election."

Mr. Treby also reported, "That Sir John Lloyd, late mayor, William Jackson, and William Clutterbuck, sheriffs of the said city, did, at the time of the said election, impose an oath upon the electors before they came to give their votes, in these words: viz. 'You shall swear that you are a freeman, and that you have not given your voice already.'"

Ordered, "That Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant for a new writ, for electing a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

March 24. A petition of Sir Robert Atkins, knight of the Bath, and Sir John Knight and others, burgesses and freeholders of this city, touching the election for the said city.

The Parliament being in a few days after dissolved, it was not heard.

March 24, 1689. A petition of William Powlet, sergeant at law, and Robert Yate, merchant, against Sir Richard Hart, and Sir John Knight.

No determination.

March 4, 1713. A petition of Sir Wm. Daines, knt., against Colonel Joseph Earle, and Thomas Edwards, junr., esq.

No report.

March 31, 1715. A petition of Philip Freke, and Thomas Edwards, junr., esqrs., against Sir William Daines, and Joseph Earle, esq.

No determination.

Oct. 11, 1722. William Hart, esq., petitioned.

Jan. 23, 1735. Mayor, &c., petitioned on behalf of John Scrope, esq.

The petition partly heard, and then withdrawn.

March 20, 1775. Matthew Brickdale, esq., petitioned against the return of Edmund Burke, esq., and Henry Cruger, esq.

Sitting members declared duly elected.

Oct. 31, 1780. Henry Cruger, petitioned against the return of George Dawbeney, esq.

May 18, 1784. George Dawbeney, esq., petitioned against the return of Henry Cruger, esq., as did several voters against Mr. Brickdale's election.

The sitting members declared duly elected.

—, 1812. Henry Hunt, esq., petitioned against the return of Richard Hart Davis, esq., and Edward Protheroe, esq.

Sitting members declared duly elected.

CORPORATION

Consists of twelve aldermen, the mayor and recorder being two of that number, two sheriffs, and forty-eight common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Freeholders, having freeholds of forty shillings a-year, and the Free Burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—near 6000.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Sheriffs.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city was formerly considered a part of Gloucestershire. The return of its members to serve in Parliament was made by the sheriff of that county; but afterwards, to dignify the county of Somerset with three cities, it was placed there before Bath and Wells, as the first of the three. In the 47th of Edward III. it was dissevered from Gloucester and Somerset, and made a county of itself. This city is certainly the second in England, with respect to the number and riches of its merchants. It is entirely free from aristocratic and ministerial controul; but it is generally represented by a coalition formed by the leaders of the two contending parties. One of its representatives votes uniformly with administration, and the other commonly with opposition; so that six thousand persons, to whom the right of election is supposed to be confined, have virtually no representation at all.

This city also labours under the intolerable grievance of having its right of election so complicated, and so exposed to fraud and imposition, as to render it absolutely impossible for them to accomplish a fair choice of their representatives. This right being in the freeholders and freemen, and the latter qualification extending to freemen's sons and to the husbands of freemen's daughters, it is not unusual for a number of persons to be brought here at an election to personate the sons of freemen, whose absence may afford an opportunity of substituting a proxy; and others to

swear themselves the sons of parents to whom they have no other affinity than that of recording their names on the same parchment, in the indenture of admission. Freeman's daughters have also been married for the express purpose of qualifying their husbands to vote, and the husband selected for the occasion, after fulfilling the purpose of the marriage, appears to have provided, by anticipation, against the evils that might arise from the inconvenience of a bad partner, by discovering that the marriage has no validity, from the circumstance of his having a *former wife* living.

These, and innumerable other impositions, have been known to have been practised at elections for this city, and we may defy the ingenuity of law to prevent them till one system of right is established, and that system, the constitutional one of extending the election franchise to every housekeeper in the kingdom. If that right was established in Bristol, the number of voters would be ten thousand. The representatives would be treble the present number. The city, divided into districts, would be polled in one day, and the persons who pay all direct taxes, and serve all public offices, would be fairly represented.

In 1774, Henry Cruger, esq., and Edmund Burke, esq., were elected for this city, upon the opposition interest, against the late Earl Nugent and Matthew Brickdale, esq.; at the next election in 1780, the ministerial party returned both. From that period till 1812, the city of Bristol has been governed by two party clubs, and each club has nominated a member.

At the last general election, the Whig Club nominated Sir Samuel Romilly, and the White Lion, or Tory Club, proposed Richard Hart Davis, esq. The former was opposed by Edward Protheroe, esq., who professed himself a Whig, but was secretly supported by the Tory Club, who, by this manœuvre, succeeded, for that time, in bringing in both members.

Henry Hunt, esq., of Middleton Cottage in Hampshire, offered himself a candidate upon the old constitutional system of incurring no expenses, nor canvassing votes. He was received with every demonstration of popular enthusiasm, though the newspapers were hired to traduce him, and every measure was resorted to, that the ingenuity of his opponents could devise to injure him in the public opinion.

The numbers at the final close of the poll were

For R. H. Davis, esq.....	2910
Edward Protheroe, esq..	2435
Sir Samuel Romilly	1685
Henry Hunt, esq.....	455

BATH.

BATH is a city in the hundred of Bath Forum, Somerset, 13 miles from Bristol, and 110 from London, by Chippenham. The four parishes of St. James, St. Michael, the Abbey Church, or St. Peter and St. Paul, Walcot, and Christ Church, containing 3,619 houses and 27,686 inhabitants; being 10,521 males and 17,165 females, of whom 6,103 were returned as being employed in various

trades, &c., exclusive of the out-parishes of Bathampton, Bathwick, Bathford, and Batheaston, which contain 670 houses and 4,514 inhabitants. The city, except a little opening to the east and west, through which the Avon passes, is surrounded by hills. It has an elegant bridge, and the river has been made navigable to Bristol. It was formerly surrounded with a slight wall, of which there still appear some remains, as well as one or two of its gates. Most of the new buildings, and by far the largest and finest part of the city, are without the walls. Joined with Wells, the city forms a bishopric, called the diocese of Bath and Wells. The bishop's seat is at Wells. The diocese comprehends the whole of the county of Somerset, except a few churches in the city of Bristol, containing 388 parishes, and 503 churches and chapels. Sixty of the parishes are impropriate. The markets are held here principally on Wednesday and Saturday, and plentifully supplied with all kinds of provision; excellent mutton is produced from the feed on Lansdown, one of the highest hills which overlook the city, about three miles in extent; on which is annually held, on the 10th of August, a fair for cheese, horses, and all kinds of merchandize. The fish market, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, far excels that of any inland town in the kingdom.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city has returned members to Parliament from the 23d of Edward I. The ancient method of election was by the mayor and three citizens

being sent from thence to the county court, who, in the name of the whole community, and by assent of the community, returned their representatives.

Feb. 18, 1625. Mr. Gay informed the House, that he was returned a burgess for the said city; and besides, one of the principal men of the city had murdered himself and his wife, and that the mayor was the only coroner; therefore desired leave to go home.

Referred to the Committee of Privileges, whether a new writ should issue, and leave to go home.

The first contested election was immediately after the Restoration, when the freemen laid claim to a right of election, two returns were made, one, by the mayor and aldermen, of Alexander Popham, esq., and William Prynn, esq., and the other by the aldermen only; upon which,

May 16, 1661, Sergeant Carleton reported, That Alexander Popham, esq., and William Prynn, esq., were returned as citizens to serve for the said city of Bath by the mayor and aldermen only in one indenture, and Sir Charles Berkley and Sir Thomas Brydges by the aldermen only in another indenture; and the opinion of the said committee thereupon, that the said Mr. Popham and Mr. Prynn ought to sit till the merits of the cause touching the said double return be heard.

Resolved: "The House do agree with the said committee, and that the said Mr. Popham and Mr. Prynn do sit in the House till the merits of the cause touching the said election be determined.

A petition of Sir Charles Berkley, knt., and Sir Thomas Bridges.

This petition was never reported, though Mr. Prynn writes it was heard, and the right of election made out to be in the corporation, the question then being, Whether all the freemen and citizens had, and ought to have, voice in the election of citizens to serve in Parliament, or only the mayor, aldermen, and common-council.

Oct. 27, 1675. A petition of Henry Bridges, esq., against Sir George Speake.

Never heard.

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of George Dashwood and Richard Houblin, esqrs., against William Blathwait and Alexander Popham, esqrs.

Jan. 27, 1707. Mr. Compton reported, That the question was upon the right of election; that the petitioners' counsel insisted, that the right of election was in the mayor, aldermen, and all the freemen paying scot and lot.

That the counsel for the sitting members insisted the right of election was in the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, or capital citizens only.

Resolved, "That the right of election of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city is in the mayor, aldermen, and common-council only."

"That William Blathwait, esq., is duly elected a citizen to serve in Parliament for the said city."

"That Alexander Popham, esq., was duly elected a citizen to serve in Parliament for this city."

March 30, 1715. A petition of Edward Min-

shall and John Broomhall, esqrs., against Samuel Trotman and John Codrington, esqrs.

Ordered, that leave be given to withdraw the petition.

Jan. 27, 1728. Henry Bridges, esq., petitioned.

Nov. 25, 1762. Walter Long, esq., petitioned against Mr. Smith's election. Feb. 10, 1766, Mr. Smith was declared duly elected.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, nine other aldermen, a recorder, and 20 common-councilmen, from amongst whom a sheriff is chosen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION,

26th January, 1706, in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-councilmen only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—30.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRONS—Marquis of Bath and John Palmer, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city, which is the most elegant, and one of the first with respect to population in the kingdom, is under the same political exclusion as the inhabitants of Shoreham and Cricklade, who have been convicted of the grossest venality, corruption, and bribery; a crime, which the late Sir John Cust, when Speaker of the House of Commons, in reprimanding the mayor and aldermen of Oxford, calls the most enormous that men can

well commit. The punishment inflicted by the House of Commons on such as they have deemed it expedient to make examples of their justice, has been *disqualification from voting in the election of members of Parliament*. All the inhabitants of Bath, the corporation only excepted, are exactly in the same situation, with only the mental consolation of not having committed a similar offence against the liberty of their country to deserve it.

The representation of this city is as complete a political farce as that of Old Sarum; for if thirty individuals are to elect two representatives for the people of England, it is of very little consequence whether they are chosen by that number of burghage-holders, or by the same number of aldermen and common-council. We however trust, that we may hail them with the prospect of a speedy reform, which will restore men to their rights, and the nation to its true dignity and independence.

If the right of election extended to the householders, where the constitution originally placed it, the number of voters for this city would be seven thousand; but at Edinburgh, where the right of voting is also confined to a corporation of thirty-three individuals, the same right would extend to three times that number; and if these populous cities were divided into districts, they would have an equal number of representatives with every other district in the empire. At present they send one member less than Old Sarum and Gatton, which have but one house between both boroughs.

The corporation of Bath have also many non-

residents amongst them; and sometimes the mayor resides in London or elsewhere, and is not seen in the city of which he is chief magistrate from one end of the year to the other; on which occasion the office is executed by deputy. The citizens and householders of Bath have no more concern in choosing the aldermen and common-council than they have in electing the members who are their nominal representatives in Parliament. When a vacancy happens, by death or otherwise, amongst the thirty who compose the oligarchy of this city, the remaining twenty-nine appoint him a successor; they do not even hold themselves bound to choose him from amongst the freemen, but assume a power of conferring the freedom on the person they have selected, to qualify him for the situation, and immediately elect him into the corporation.

The Marquis of Bath nominates one of the members who represent these thirty individuals, and the Marquis Camden named the other till 1802, when John Palmer, esq., one of the aldermen, succeeded him in the joint patronage of the corporation.

WELLS.

WELLS, a city in the hundred of Wellsforum, Somerset, situated on the borders of the Mendip-hills, on the small river Wesitire, 15 miles from Bath, and 122 from London; containing 869 houses and 4,829 inhabitants, of whom 870 were returned employed in trade. This city is well

built, the houses neat, and many of them elegant, and the streets well paved and clean. The cathedral, the greater part of which, as it now stands, was erected in 1239 by Bishop Jocelyn de Wells, is a spacious Gothic structure, in the form of a cross, being 380 feet long and 130 wide. The town-hall is situated over Bishop Bubwith's hospital, which is endowed for 30 poor men and women. On the east side of the city is a spacious open market-place. The name of this city is said to be taken from a remarkable spring called St. Andrew's Well, rising near the palace, and emitting a copious stream, which surrounds that structure, and thence flows through the south-west part of the town. The chief manufactures are knitting of hose and bone lace. Market on Wednesday and Saturday. Fairs, 14th May, 25th July, 25th October, and 30th November.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city has sent members to Parliament from the 23rd of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 27, 1680. A petition of John Hall, esq., concerning the election for this borough.

Resolved: "That Edward Berkley, esq., is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That John Hall, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

May 25, 1685. A petition of Harry Brydges, esq.

No report.

March 24, 1690. A petition of William Coward, esq., against Edward Berkley and Hopton Wyndham, esqrs.

A petition of Peter Gallop and others, the majority of the burgesses, freemen and inhabitants of this city, against the mayor, for falsely returning Edward Berkley and Hopton Wyndham, esqrs.

No report.

Nov. 26, 1695. A petition of Harry Brydges, esq., against the return of Edward Berkley, esq.

Feb. 18. Colonel Glanville reported, That the petitioner insisted the right of election was in the mayor, burgesses, and inhabitants paying scot and lot.

For Mr. Berkley it was insisted, That the right of election was in the mayor, masters, and sworn burgesses, and no poll was duly demanded for the inhabitants.

Resolved: "That the right of electing citizens to serve in Parliament for this city is only in the mayor, masters, and burgesses of the said city.

Resolved: "That Edward Berkley, esq., is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

March 30, 1715. A petition of William Coward and William Piers, esqrs., against Thomas Horner and Maurice Berkley, esqrs.

A petition of Richard Comes and other, citizens or burgesses, and freemen of this city, against the return of the said Thomas Horner and Maurice Berkley, esq.

May 30, 1716. Mr. Hamden reported, "That the question was, Whether the right of elec-

tion was in the mayors, masters, and burgesses, and inhabitants paying scot and lot, or in the mayor, masters, and burgesses, only?"

Resolved: "That the right of election of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city, is in the mayor, masters, and burgesses of the said city."

Resolved: "That Thomas Horner is not duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

Resolved: "That Maurice Berkley, esq., is not duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

Resolved: "That William Coward, esq., is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

Resolved: "That William Peirs, esq., is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

Feb. 25, 1716. A petition of John Dodd, esq., against Thomas Horner.

Whereupon it was agreed, that the right of election was in the mayor, masters, and burgesses; and the question was, Whether the burgesses should be sworn burgesses?

Resolved: "That Thomas Horner, esq., is not duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

"That John Dodd, esq., is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for this city."

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of the Hon. George Hamilton and William Piers, esq., against Thomas Edwards and Francis Gwynn, esqrs., wherein the qualification of the freemen was disputed.

Resolved: "That the right of election is in such persons as are, by consent of the mayor and common-council, admitted to their freedom in any of the seven trading companies in the said city, being thereto entitled by birth, servitude, or marriage."

Resolved: "That Thomas Edwards, esq., is duly elected."

Resolved: "That Francis Gwyn, esq., is duly elected."

Nov. 12, 1747. William Piers and George Speke, esqrs., petitioned.

Petition withdrawn.

Nov. 14, 1754. Francis Gwyn, esq., petitioned.

Petition withdrawn.

Nov. 25, 1762. Robert Tudway, esq., the mayor and corporation, petitioned against the return of Peter Taylor, esq.; and the same having been heard at the bar, the House found that Peter Taylor, esq., was not duly elected, but that Robert Child, esq., was duly elected, and ought to have been returned, but left Mr. Taylor at liberty to petition against Mr. Child's election, if he thought proper, January, 1766.

Mr. Taylor accordingly petitioned; but on the 24th February, 1766, after the House had made considerable progress in it, he requested leave to withdraw his petition, which the House granted.

May 10, 1768. Peter Taylor, esq., petitioned.

March 9, 1769. Reported sitting members duly elected.

CORPORATION,

By charter, *anno* 16 Elizabeth, it consists of a mayor, recorder, seven masters, and sixteen common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION,

Feb. 18, 1695, is only in the Mayor, Masters, and Burgesses of the said city.

May 2, 1723, } Is in the Mayor, Masters, Bur-

April 18, 1729, } gesses, and Freemen of the said city who are admitted to their freedom in any of the seven companies within the said city, being thereunto entitled by birth, servitude, or marriage.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 150.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—John Paine Tudway, esq., one member.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This city is properly ranked as a corporation borough; for though the right of election extends to the freemen, in number about one hundred and fifty, those of the latter description are mostly non-resident, and the expense of collecting them from all parts of the country so considerable, that there has been no contest for this place since that of Robert Child, esq., and the late Peter Taylor, the army commissary, in 1768, at which time the candidates were under the necessity of bringing in the wives and children of the out-voters as well as themselves, and maintaining them the whole time of the contest.

The influence prevailing in this corporation for the last sixty years was that of the late Clement Tudway, esq., who procured himself to be returned for twelve succeeding Parliaments, from 1762 to 1812 inclusive. He is lately deceased, and succeeded in the patronage of the corporation, and the representation of the city, by his nephew,

John Paine Tudway, esq. The other member is generally brought in by the non-resident freemen. There have been several resolutions of the House of Commons respecting the right of election in this city.

In one resolution, it is agreed to be in the mayor, masters, and burgesses, and in such persons as are, by *consent* of the mayor, admitted to their freedom; this would have left the election of members entirely in the corporation; as the mayor, with such a discretionary power, would admit only those that were of his own party; the last resolution has, however, determined it to be in the mayor, masters, burgesses, and freemen, without the word *consent* being included in it.

TAUNTON.

TAUNTON is a borough and market-town, consisting of two parishes, in the hundred of Taunton, Somerset, situated on the river Tone, 47 miles from Bristol, and 144 from London; containing 1,146 houses and 5,794 inhabitants, of whom 700 were employed in trade and manufacture. This town has a considerable manufacture of silks, and a good trade to Bridgewater by the Tone. Its present name appears to be derived from that river, it being called in ancient records, *Tone Town*. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday, and its fairs are 17th June and 7th July, for three days.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough has sent members to Parliament from the 23rd of Edward I. It was an ancient

borough by prescription, and had 64 burgesses at the time of the general survey. It was incorporated 29 Car. II., and put under the government of a mayor.

In the 2d of Henry V., these burgesses were chosen by deputation from the borough at the county court.

PETITIONS, &c. Oct. 5, 1680. A petition of Edmund Prideaux, esq., against Sir John Prideaux.

Oct. 30. A petition of the inhabitants of this borough.

Dec. 8. Resolved: "That Sir John Cutler is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

Resolved: "That Edward Prideaux is duly elected a burgess."

Jan. 22, 1688. A petition of John Trenchard and Edward Clarke, esqrs., against Sir William Portman and John Sandford, esq.

Resolved: "That Sir William Portman and John Sanford, esq., the sitting members, are duly elected."

Dec. 6, 1695. A petition of Henry Portman, esq., against Hugh Speke, esq., for bribery and other undue practices.

No report.

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of William Coward and William Pynsent, esq., against Sir Francis Warre and Henry Portman, esq., complaining of an undue return.

A petition of several of the inhabitants of the said borough to the same effect.

No report.

March 29, 1715. A petition of William Pynsent and James Smith, esqrs., against the return of Sir Francis Warre and Henry Portman, esq.

A petition of the inhabitants of the said borough, in behalf of themselves, to the same effect.

Upon the hearing of which, a question arose as to the right of election being in the pot-wallers, and not receiving alms or charity, inhabitants within the said borough.

Resolved: "That persons living in that part of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen within this town which lies out of the limits of the borough, who at any time before the issuing of writs for calling a new Parliament, take a room, and boil a pot within the said borough, do not acquire a right of voting at the election of members to serve in Parliament for this borough."

Resolved: "That the counsel for the sitting members be not admitted to give evidence of persons having received Saunders' charity before the 2d of February, 1713."

Aug. 30, 1715. Resolved: "That Francis Warre, bart., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That Henry Portman, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That William Pynsent, esq., is duly elected."

Resolved: "That James Smith, esq., is duly elected."

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of George Dean and Goodenough Earl, esqrs., against the return of John Trenchard and James Smith, esqrs. complaining of bribery and other illegal practices.

A petition of the inhabitants of the said borough to the same effect.

Nov. 20. Ordered leave to withdraw the said petition.

Jan 28, 1723. A petition of George Dean, esq., against the return of Abraham Elton, esq., complaining of partiality in the mayor towards Mr. Elton, and other arbitrary and corrupt practices.

Nov. 19, 1724. The petition of George Dean, esq., again read.

No report.

In 1774, Alexander Popham and John Halliday, esqrs., petitioned against the return of the Hon. Edward Stratford and Nathaniel Webb, esq. A committee to try this case was chosen Feb. 24, 1775. The petitions stated that the mayor, as returning officer, had procured himself to be appointed mayor, to answer election purposes, and had by unnecessary adjournments protracted the poll; and that he had rejected many legal votes which were tendered for the petitioners, and had admitted many illegal votes for the sitting members; also, that the sitting members previous to, and during the election, were guilty of bribery and corruption by themselves and agents. On March 16, 1775, the committee, by their chairman, informed the House that John Halliday, esq., and Alexander Popham, esq., the petitioners, were duly elected, and ought to have been returned. The return was amended accordingly.

To the precept of election issued in the year 1796, two returns were made, one by the mayor of the late corporation, and the other by the con-

stables and bailiffs of the borough. On the succeeding election the precept was directed to "the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, the bailiffs, portreeves, and constables of the said borough, and others whom it might concern." To this precept a return was made by William Saunders, esq., the surviving alderman of the late corporation, sealed with the corporation seal, and another by the constables and bailiffs. On an application to the court of King's Bench for an information in the nature of a *quo warranto* against Saunders, for usurping the office of alderman, in making this return, the court refused the rule, because they held the act merely void, the corporation being dissolved.

Peckwell,
vol. i., p.
406-432.

Robert Robinson, esq., and several electors, petitioned against the return of John Hammet, esq., Nov. 30, 1802. A committee was appointed April 28, 1803. It was stated in Mr. Robinson's petition, that Mr. Hammet being the bailiff of Taunton was the legal returning officer, and as such ineligible to represent that place in Parliament; that the petitioner and Wm. Moreland, esq., (the other sitting member,) being the only two eligible candidates proposed, it was the duty of Mr. Hammet to have returned them; but that, on the contrary, he refused to receive the votes so tendered to him; that the five persons who had made the return wrongfully assumed to themselves the character of returning officers, and that their return was void. He complained of a riot at the poll. The petition of the electors contained the same allegations, with this difference, that it only

alleged the return actually made, and the election of the sitting members to be void, without claiming the seat for Mr. Robinson. On May 5, 1803, the chairman reported that the sitting members were duly elected.

In 1806, several of the electors petitioned against the election of Alex. Baring, esq. The chairman of the committee that tried the merits of the complaint reported to the House, March 13, 1807, that Mr. Baring was duly elected, and that the petition was both frivolous and vexatious.

CORPORATION

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Inhabitants within the said borough, being potwallers, and not receiving alms or charity.—July 28, 1715. When this resolution was moved, an amendment was proposed to the question, by leaving out the words “or charity,” and the question being put, that the words, “or charity,” do stand part of the question, it was resolved in the affirmative. This proves, that in the borough of Taunton there is a distinction between *alms* and *charity*, alms meaning parochial collection, or parish relief, and charity signifying sums arising from the revenue of certain specific funds, established or bequeathed for the purpose of assisting the poor. There are a great many of those funds in Taunton, called the Town Charity, Meredith's Charity, Saunder's Charity, &c.

18 Journ.,
P. 241.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—400.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Bailiffs and Constables.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The borough of Taunton comprehends but a small part of the town of that name, only part of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen being within its limits. The right of election, according to the last resolution of the House of Commons is in the inhabitants *pot-wallers*, not receiving alms or charity, though those who had accepted the town charities, and not taken *alms* or parochial relief, were deemed good votes, which implies a contradiction to the above resolution. This qualification is defined to mean all the resident male inhabitants, who have obtained a parochial settlement, whether they are occupiers of a house, or lodgers; and gives occasion to such innumerable objections at an election, as to leave in the returning officer, who is umpire between the parties, the power of deciding in favour of whichever he pleases.

A parochial settlement being acquired, and forfeited by such a variety of legal methods, witnesses to qualify and disqualify every person voting under that claim are produced, and a decision is made in a court which has no authority, and before a returning officer who has not a power to examine on oath. The ministerial duties of his office are thereby exercised judicially, and he admits or rejects votes at his own discretion.

The want of an universally established right of election must be ever productive of these imper-

fections in a popular institution ; exclusive rights, and local qualifications, have ever been the cause of dispute and litigation, of which the numerous petitions from the corporation and bur-gage-tenure boroughs bear a disgraceful testimony : even the peerage of Scotland, who elect sixteen representatives to the House of Lords, and where the election is in about eighty individuals, is not exempt from this inconvenience. At the general election in 1790, there was a disputed return, when only thirteen out of the number returned were capable of taking their seats for more than two years, owing to the length of time occupied in the investigation of partial rights; and a committee of the House of Commons is sometimes engaged ten times as long in ascertaining the right of franchise in a rotten borough, as they would be in digesting and establishing a form for a fair, equal, and universal representation of the people.

This borough was several years under the management of two bankers : the late Sir Benjamin Hamet, who built a new street, which bears his name, purchased the castle and other property, and established a bank here, as did his opponent, William Morland, esq. Sir Benjamin and his son represented this place in eight successive Parliaments, Mr. Morland only in three. Upon the death of John Hamet, esq., his estates in Taunton were sold, and part of them were purchased by Sir John Lethbridge, whose son-in-law is one of the present members, and who expects to become patron of the borough.

If the right of election extended to the inhabitant householders of the whole town of Taunton, the number of voters would be twelve hundred. At present that right is exercised only by four hundred pot-boilers in a part of one of the parishes.

Taunton was incorporated by a charter of 2 Charles I., which having been annulled by *quo warranto*, a second charter of incorporation was granted to it by Charles II., and the town was governed by a mayor, recorder, two aldermen, and 24 capital burgesses. Neither of these charters interfered with the right of election, but from the time of the first incorporation the returns of members were made by the mayor, who constantly presided at all elections to Parliament, until the dissolution of the corporation in 1793. This town acts now without a charter, and the return is made by the two bailiffs, and two constables of the manor.

The Bishop of Winchester is lord of the manor, and by a patent dated October 12, 1786, granted to John Hamet, James Esdaile Hamet and Edward Jefferies Hamet, the office of bailiffs.

Ina, king of the West-Saxons, built a castle here, which was demolished by his wife; but afterwards it was rebuilt by one of the bishops of Winchester, to the prelates of which see this town and deanery belonged, even before the Conquest. This castle was a building of great extent; its hall, with the outward gate and porter's lodge, are still standing; and in the hall, which is very large, are generally held the assizes for the county. At the entrance into the court is the Exchequer, where

the bishop's clerk keeps his office ; and a court is held every Saturday for the bishop's tenants. This castle was garrisoned by the Parliament in the civil war, when, being besieged by Goring, Lord Fairfax marched to relieve it ; on which Goring raised the siege, and in a few days after was defeated by Fairfax, at Langport, who killed many of his men, took 1,200 horses and 1,400 prisoners. This victory was followed by the conquest of Bridgewater, Bath, Sherborne, and Bristol. King Charles II., in the year 1662, caused its walls to be demolished, and took away the charter from the town, on account of the inhabitants having adhered to the Parliament in the reign of his father ; after which they were 17 years without one, till the same prince granted them a new charter.

This town suffered greatly by the cruelty of Major-general Kirk, immediately after the Duke of Monmouth's defeat, in the year 1685, who being sent hither, caused 19 persons, by his own authority, without any trial or process, and without suffering their wives or children to speak with them, to be hanged, with pipes playing, drums beating, and trumpets sounding. The same inhuman monster, having invited his officers to dinner, ordered 30 persons, condemned here by Jeffries, to be hanged while they were at table ; namely, 10 in a health to the king, 10 while the health went round to the queen, and 10 with the health passed to Jeffries.

BRIDGEWATER.

BRIDGEWATER, a borough and market-town in the hundred of North Petherton, Somerset, 10 miles from Taunton, and 142 from London. It is seated on the river Parrot, over which is a stone bridge, which connects the suburb of Eastover. It contains 481 houses and 3,634 inhabitants, being 1,715 males and 1,919 females, of whom 986 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. Here are held four sessions annually, for trying all crimes not capital, committed within their jurisdiction; there is likewise a court of record every Monday, which takes cognizance of debts. The rules and practice are according to those in the court of Common Pleas. The houses in general are irregular, but the streets are wide and well paved. It has a market on Thursday and Saturday; at the former, cattle of all kind are sold, and cheese in great quantities, and provisions of all sorts are plentiful and reasonable. Its fairs are, 24th July, 2d October, 27th December, and the first Monday in Lent, when great numbers of horses and horned cattle are sold. The Midsummer county sessions are held here, and the assizes every other year.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was created by King John, and has been represented in Parliament ever since the 23d of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. —, 1699. A petition of Mr. Peregrine Palmer against the return of Sir Francis Roll.

Dec. 7. Sir Job Carleton reported from the Committee of Elections the state of this election, between Sir Francis Roll and Mr. Palmer, That the right of election was in the majority of the corporation, consisting of a mayor, aldermen, and capital burgesses, in number 24; and that so many persons were present, and gave votes in the election: and there being 12 voices for Mr. Palmer and 11 for Sir Francis Roll, the mayor, as burgess, gave his voice for him, whereby the voices were even, and then as mayor gave his casting voice; upon which the return was made for Sir Francis Roll, which Mr. Palmer complains is undue; for some of those who took upon them to give their voices for Sir Francis Roll were not elected burgesses.

Resolved: "That Sir Francis Roll was not duly elected."

Resolved: "That Mr. Palmer was duly elected;" with which the House agreed.

March 26, 1678. A petition of Ralph Stawell, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Francis Roll.

No determination.

March 27, 1679. A petition of Sir Francis Roll, bart., complaining of an undue return of Col. Ralph Stawell.

— 28. A petition of Ralph Stawell, esq., praying that the merits of this election and return may be heard together.

A petition of William Clarke, esq., complaining of several undue practices in the election and return of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough.

— 29. The House being informed, that Sir Halswell Tynt, bart., is returned to serve in this present Parliament for this borough by two indentures, and ought to sit,

Resolved, “ That the clerk of the crown shall affix the indenture wherein Sir Halswell Tynt is singly returned to the writ for the county of Somerset; and that Sir Halswell Tynt ought thereupon to sit as duly returned.

The other petitioners do not appear to have been heard.

Nov. 4, 1692. A petition of John Gardner, merchant, against Robert Blach, esq., complaining of an undue return for this borough.

Reported: “ That the right of election was agreed to be in the inhabitants paying scot and lot.”

After a long debate as to the qualification of voters, bribery and other illegal practices on both sides, it was resolved:

“ That Robert Black, esq., is duly elected.”

The Hon. Anne Poulet having petitioned against the election of James Viscount Perceval, the petitioner was in 1769 found to be duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

Feb. 20, 1781, John Acland, esq., and certain electors, severally complained of the return of Benjamin Allen, esq.; and certain other electors complained of the return of the Hon. Anne Poulett.

The counsel and agent for Mr. Acland also appeared for the electors, who complained of the return of Benjamin Allen, esq.; and the counsel and agent for Mr. Allen also appeared for the electors who petitioned against the Hon. Anne Poulett. "And it appearing that there were four parties before the House on distinct interests the same was stated by Mr. Speaker to the counsel at the bar, and the House proceeded to the appointment of the said select committee as in the cases of there being more than two parties on distinct interests before the House." Mr. Acland and certain electors petitioned against Mr. Allen, and alleged that Mr. Acland ought to have been returned; the other electors petitioned against Mr. Poulett's election without claiming the return for any other candidate. The four parties, therefore, were—1. Mr. Acland, and the electors in his interest. 2. Mr. Allen. 3. The petitioners against Mr. Poulett, who, however, were represented by Mr. Allen's counsel. 4. Mr. Poulett. On the 3d of March, 1781, the chairman reported to the House that Mr. Poulett was duly elected, and that Mr. Allen was not duly elected, and ought not to have been returned, and that Mr. Acland was duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

Nov. 24, 1802, John Agnew, esq., petitioned against the return of George Pocock and Jeffery Allen, esqrs., but neglecting to lodge his recognizance in due time the petition was of no avail.

This petition was afterwards properly renewed, and accompanied by one from several electors, presented Nov. 26, and Dec. 1, 1802. The elec-

tors claimed the seat for both Mr. Agnew and Mr. Harcourt; Mr. Agnew for himself alone. The final numbers were—

Allen	166
Pocock.....	149
Agnew.....	143
Harcourt.....	127

The petitioners charged the sitting members with treating and bribery, and the returning officer with acting unfairly. On March 18, 1803, the committee determined that the sitting members were duly elected.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, recorder, two aldermen, who are justices of the peace, and 24 common-councilmen. The mayor and aldermen are chosen out of that number.

There are annually chosen out of the common-council, two bailiffs, who are invested with a power equal to that of a sheriff; for the sheriffs of the county cannot send any process into the borough. A receiver is also annually chosen out of the common-council, to collect the town rents, and make payments.

The revenues of the corporation, consisting of the manor of the borough, the great and small tithes, and some estates in Dorsetshire, are valued at 10,000*l.* a year; and the freemen are free of all the ports in England and Ireland, except London and Dublin.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Dec. 7, 1669.—Is in the majority of the Corporation, consisting of a Mayor, Aldermen, and 24 capital Burgesses, being inhabitants of that division of the said parish of Bridgewater, which is commonly called the borough, paying scot and lot within the said division; and in them only.

Dec. 10, 1692. Agreed to be in those that pay scot and lot, inhabiting in the said borough.

March 9, 1769. If the mayor, aldermen, and capital burgesses, are not inhabitants, though they pay scot and lot, yet they have no right to vote.

March 14, 1769. The inhabitants of the eastern and western division of the parish of Bridgewater have no right to vote for representatives, but the right of election is in the inhabitants of that division of the said parish, which is commonly called the borough, paying scot and lot within the said division, and in them only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—400.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Earl Paulet.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough formerly acknowledged the patronage of the famous Bubb Doddington, of political memory, who was opposed by the Earl of Egmont, when they were leaders of the Tory faction of the late reign. Earl Paulet had then the lead of the ministerial party in this place; and, by coalescing with Lord Egmont, contrived at last to

possess himself of the controlling influence. His lordship's interest has been frequently opposed by Benjamin Allen, esq., Lord Perceval, John Langston, esq. and the Hon. Vere Paulet his own brother, who have all succeeded at different periods; but as Earl Paulet has the distribution of the government favours, he has always been considered as the patron.

The contests in this borough have been productive of the grossest bribery. We have heard one elector boast of selling his pig for a hundred guineas and being allowed to eat it himself; another that he has sold his parrot for the same sum, but the candidate never claimed his purchase. Sums of three, four, and five hundred guineas have been given for single votes. Corruption has been carried higher, but it is not more general in this place than in other boroughs, for where the poor voters are not permitted to share the purchase money, the proprietor will not hesitate to receive his five thousand pounds; and such must always be the case, while individuals can nominate a majority of the House of Commons.

Let any one read the history of Hindon, Shaftesbury, Ilchester, or any other borough where the system of corruption has been exposed, and he will acquire a pretty accurate knowledge of the practice which prevails in all the rest.

ILCHESTER.

ILCHESTER, a borough, and market-town, and parish in the hundred of Tintilhull, Somerset, 10 miles from Castle Cary, and 122 from London; containing 60 houses and 867 inhabitants. It is pleasantly seated on the river Ivel, which is not navigable. The county goal also is here; and it was formerly noted for its thread lace manufactory, but that is at present much declined, as well as a silk manufactory established here some years since. The assizes for the county were fixed at Ilchester in the reign of Edward III. but they have long since been alternately held at Wells, Taunton, and Bridgewater. A court is held here every Wednesday four weeks. The celebrated Roger Bacon was born at this town. Many oxen are bred here for the London and Salisbury markets. Its market is on Wednesday, and its fairs 18th April, and 16th September.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This town returned members to Parliament 26 Edward 1st, and continued to the 34th of Edward 3rd, and then ceased until the 12th Edward 4th, after which it intermitted until 1621, when it was restored.

March 26th, 1621. Sir Robert Philips tendereth a petition.

27th, Sir George Móore reporteth from the Committee of Privileges for Ilchester; till Henry Vth

it sent burgesses. Upon question:—Ilchester to send burgesses.

Resolved: That the election of Sir Henry Berkeley, esq., and Mr. Hunt for the town of Ilchester in the county of Somerset is void.

That Mr. Robert Hunt having preferred his petition against the election of Mr. Dunster.

The committee were of opinion that Mr. Hunt's petition be dismissed.

March 19th, 1678. A petition of Edward Philips and Robert Hunt, esqrs., complaining of an undue return of William Stoke, and John Speke, esqrs.

A petition of William Strode and John Speke, esqrs., complaining of an undue return of Edward Philips and Robert Hunt, esqrs.

Resolved: That the indenture wherein William Strode and John Speke, esqrs. are returned burgesses to serve in this present Parliament for this borough, is well and duly returned.

March 24, 1680. A petition of Sir William Strode and John Speke, esq., touching the election for this borough.

No report.

Jan. 28, 1680. A petition of William Strode and John Speke, esqrs., complaining of an undue election and return of burgesses.

Resolved: " That Sir Edward Wyndham, bart., and William Hellyar, esq., are duly elected burgesses to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

Feb. 13th, 1700. The House being informed that Samuel Sheppard, esq. a member of this

House hath been guilty of bribery in several corporations in order to procure members to be elected into this Parliament; ordered the matter to be heard at the bar, and the matter to be put in writing.

Feb. 15th. The charge being in writing was, that Mr. Sheppard and his agents had endeavoured to corrupt (amongst others) the electors for this borough.

Feb. 21st. A petition of Sir Francis Wyndham, bart., was read, shewing that the petitioner Sir Philip Sydenham, bart., and James Anderton, esq., were candidates at the election of burgesses for this borough; but that the said Mr. Anderton did, contrary to a late act of Parliament distribute and expend money amongst the electors, by which means he hath procured himself to be returned in prejudice to the petitioner.

March 3. Ordered: "Mr. Edward Allen, scrivener, and Mr. Glover do attend this House upon the 11th March, instant, when the charge against Mr. Sheppard is to be heard.

Resolved: "That it appears to this House that Mr. Edward Allen, one of the new directors of the new East India Company, is guilty of notorious bribery, in distributing money in order to procure himself to be elected a burgess, to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Ordered: "That the said Mr. Edward Allen be, for the said offence, taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Resolved: "That upon the examination this

day had, in relation to the election for this borough, nothing appears to affect Samuel Sheppard, esq."

Oct. 24, 1702. A petition of John Webb, esq., against the return of Sir Francis Wyndham, bart., and James Anderton, esq., shewing, "That Sir Francis Wyndham and John Webb, esq., were duly chosen burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough: but the bailiff hath unduly returned Mr. James Anderton with the said Sir Francis Wyndham; the said bailiff having often declared he would return Mr. Anderton right or wrong, if he had but five votes: which undue return is in prejudice to the petitioners and the legal voters of the said borough."

Reported: "That upon the poll the numbers were,

For Sir Francis Wyndham.....72

Mr. Webb.....66

Mr. Anderton.....28

That the right of election was agreed to be in the Bailiff, capital Burgesses, and Inhabitants not receiving alms: that the petitioner having so great a majority, his counsel insisted, that it was from the partiality of the bailiff, who had acted contrary to his duty, he was not returned: that it was affirmed, and not contradicted, that at the time of the election some objections had been made to several who offered to vote, and they were refused; but none to any who were admitted: that after the poll ended, the bailiff adjourned to his own house (an alehouse) and after some hours, returned to the hall, and declared Mr. Anderton duly

elected; and the bailiff being asked his reason for it, made answer 'he could look through an iron-gate:' that the bailiff a fortnight or three weeks before declared he would return Mr. Anderton, right or wrong, though he had but five votes: that there was a pretended scrutiny after the election, made at the bailiff's house, where no person was present on behalf of the petitioner."

Gillet said, that the bailiff, the night before the election, declared he was to have 100*l.* to return Mr. Anderton, and security for his charges; and that if he had but four votes he would return him. That Edward Cleve, the goaler, asked his vote for Anderton; and calling his wife, she gave him two guineas in a paper. He said he did not vote for Mr. Anderton, but Mr. Webb, because Mr. Anderton promised him three guineas and two guineas at two former elections but did not pay him. That Cleve voted for Mr. Webb and Mr. Anderton.

It was answered by Mr. Anderton's counsel, that the bailiff had done his duty; for though Mr. Webb had the majority as set forth upon the poll, yet, upon the scrutiny, which was demanded in the hall upon a suggestion that most of Mr. Webb's voters were obtained by bribery and corruption, there was plain bribery proved upon so many of the petitioner's votes, that when they were taken off Mr. Anderton had the majority; and accordingly the bailiff conceived he ought to make the return.

To prove this was called John Winter, who said he was present at the election, and a scrutiny

was demanded in the hall, upon a suggestion of bribery in the petitioner; and thereupon the bailiff adjourned to his house. He said Burford was concerned for Mr. Webb, and desired him to write to Mr. Anderton, that if he would send 50*l.* he should be returned with the petitioner.

Cheny said, a little before the election he went to the petitioner's house with fifty or sixty others; and the petitioner proposed to them to give them two guineas a piece, but some insisted on three guineas: that he went a second time with six others, and the petitioner said he hoped they were his friends, and he would send the money; and Cox and Mather were chosen to receive it.

Mary Cleeve said one Simcox, a servant to the petitioner or his mother, in May last, brought 100*l.* to her house, and left it under a bed; and afterwards Thomas Smith and Burford came, and desired her to put it up by two guineas in a paper, and give it to such as had votes; and she did give such papers to seventeen, at the same time desiring their votes for the petitioner; that Smith took account of the money, with the names of those she gave it to; and Smith gave two guineas to one Hopkins, and Smith and Burford ordered her to deliver the remainder to Andrew Sherlock.

Resolved: "That James Anderton, esq., is duly elected."

"That John Webb, esq., hath been guilty of notorious bribery, in order to procure himself to be elected."

"That Thomas Smith, esq., an agent for the said Mr. Webb, has been guilty of notorious bribery."

“That John Burford agent for the said Mr. Webb hath been guilty of notorious bribery.”

Resolved: “That John Webb, esq., be for his said offence, committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms.”

Resolved: “That Thomas Smith, esq., be, for his said offence, committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms.”

Resolved, “That John Burford be, for his said offence, committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms.”

Resolved: “That it appears to this House that James Ashford, late bailiff of this borough, hath been guilty of arbitrary and illegal proceedings in the late election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough.”

Ordered: “That the said James Ashford be, for his said offence, committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House.”

Nov. 24, 1708. A petition of William Bellamy and Giles Hayn, esqrs., against the return of Edward Phillips and James Johnson, esqrs., complaining of bribery, corruption, and other undue practices.

Jan. 10, 1709. Ordered: “That Mr. Bellamy have leave to withdraw his petition.”

March 30, 1715. A petition of Sir James Bateman, knt., and Edward Philips, esq., against the return of William Bellamy and John Hopkins, esqrs.

A petition of the inhabitants, electors, and voters, to the same effect.

No report.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Thomas Pagett

and William Bellamy, esqrs., against the return of William Borroughs and Daniel Moore, esqrs.

A petition of John Palmer and other voters to the same effect.

Nov. 22. Ordered leave be given to withdraw the said petition.

A petition of Henry Bendysh, jun., esq.

No report.

Glenbervie,
vol. iii., p.
151, 169.

In 1775, Richard Browne and Inigo William Jones, esqrs., petitioned against the election of Peregrine Cust and William Innes, esqrs.; also James Corry and John Cox, on behalf of themselves and others, being inhabitants, householders, parishioners, and voters, within the borough of Ilchester. The petitions were in substance nearly the same, charging the returning officer with partiality, and the sitting members with bribery and treating. The counsel for the petitioners undertook to prove that such a number of votes for Cust and Innes had been bribed, as, when deducted from the poll, would leave the majority of legal votes in favour of Browne and Jones, so as to entitle them to be duly elected; and if they should not succeed in effecting this, they would prove acts of bribery, so far as to avoid the election. The counsel for the sitting members endeavoured to prove that Browne and Jones, by bribery and promises, had disqualified themselves, even if the majority of votes had been in their favour. During the examination of witnesses, James Rogers, for gross prevarication, was committed to his majesty's gaol of Newgate. In consequence of a petition expressing his contrition, he was, according to order, brought to the bar

Dec. 4, 1775, reprimanded, and discharged. On the same day the committee, by their chairman, informed the House that neither the sitting members nor the petitioners were duly elected.

In consequence of this determination, a new writ was ordered, Dec. 14, 1775, and Nathaniel Webb, Owen Salisbury Brereton, Richard Browne, and Inigo William Jones, esqrs., being candidates, the two former were elected, and the two latter were again petitioners. A committee was appointed Feb. 16, 1776, and on the 19th it was taken into consideration; but the counsel for the petitioners having informed the committee that they had no evidence to offer to impeach the seats of the sitting members, it was determined on the same day, that the two sitting members were duly elected.

June 29, 1784, John Harcourt, esq., and Sir Samuel Hannay, bart., having petitioned, as did several electors, the sitting members applied to separate in their defence, and the petitioners consented, on condition their counsel would assure the house upon their honour that their cases were distinct; and that assurance being given, they were admitted as distinct parties. The sitting members were disposed to resign their seats, but there were circumstances which induced the committee to make inquiry into the case. On the 29th of June, 1784, a committee was ballotted for, and as soon as their names were read over by the clerk, they were called to the bar, and informed by the Speaker, that it was customary in elections, where there were but two parties, for each to

Glenbervie,
vol. iv. p.
167, 175.

Peckwell,
v. i. Introd.
p. xxxix.

Luders,
vol. v. p.
139.

Beatson's
Reg. v. ii,
p. 206.

choose a nominee; but in the present case, there were three parties, viz. the sitting members, the unsuccessful candidates, and a body of the electors: if each was allowed to have a nominee, there must be three nominees; but as the law only allowed two, the thirteen gentlemen now chosen to try the election must retire, and choose out of the remainder one hundred names that were first put into the balloting-glass, two persons to act as nominees, taking care not to choose any person that was among the fifty names first drawn, or any person that was disqualified, by their being petitioners, or persons petitioned against, or having already sat on committees, or being members of committees now sitting. The thirteen gentlemen then withdrew, and soon after returned, having made choice for nominees of Thomas Powys, esq., and the Earl of Mornington.

On the 16th of July the chairman reported to the House, that Thomas Whitby had grossly prevaricated in giving his evidence before the committee, therefore he was instructed to move, "That Thomas Whitby having grossly prevaricated in giving his testimony before the committee appointed to try and determine the merits of the late election for Ilchester, be, for the said offence, committed to his majesty's gaol of Newgate," and he was ordered into custody accordingly. Thomas Whitby, being taken very ill in Newgate, petitioned the House to be released. On the 22d of July, Mr. Baring, the late chairman, desired Whitby's petition to be read, which being done, he informed the House that he had enquired into

the truth of the allegations set forth in the petition relative to the prisoner's health, and found, from two apothecaries who attended him, that he was in a high fever, and his life in danger; therefore, as it was not the intent of the House to deprive him of his life for his gross prevarication, he should move to have him discharged: this motion being seconded, the Speaker stated, that the usual way was to order the prisoner to the bar, and then let him ask pardon. However, as the petitioner was in a high fever, he presumed the House would dispense with that part of the ceremony, and permit him to issue his warrant to Mr. Akerman for his discharge, which was accordingly done.

On the 21st of July the chairman reported that the sitting members were duly elected.

Nov. 29, 1802, Sir William Manners, bart., presented a petition against the election of Thomas Plummer and William Hunter, esqrs. A committee was appointed March 17, 1803. The petition charged the sitting members with bribery and treating, and stated that many votes had been improperly received for them, and many others improperly rejected, which were tendered for the petitioner and James Graham, esq., the other candidate. The petitioner proposed to prove first, That the election of the sitting members was void, having been entirely procured by the grossest bribery and corruption. Secondly, That the sitting members themselves had been guilty of the offence of treating, and were thereby disqualified to sit in Parliament for this borough. Thirdly, That the

Peckwell,
v. i. p. 302,
306.

petitioner and Mr. Graham had the majority of legal and uncorrupted votes, and ought to have been returned.

On the 26th of March the committee came to the following resolutions:—

1. “That it does not appear to this committee that the sitting members have, by themselves or their agents, been guilty of bribery.”

2. “That it is the opinion of this committee that the sitting members have, by themselves or their agents, been guilty of treating.*

3. “That it is the opinion of this committee that the following thirty-two persons, viz.” (naming them,) “having received bribes previous to the last election for the borough of Ilchester, in the county of Somerset, were thereby disqualified from voting at the said election, which thirty-two votes being struck off will leave the state of the poll as follows:—†

T. Plummer, esq.	61
W. Hunter, esq.	62
Sir W. Manners, bart.	57
J. Graham, esq.	56

* The payment of two bills of 40*l.* and 70*l.* to publicans, for meat and drink provided for the voters during the election was the only evidence which affected the sitting members personally.

† The final numbers, as stated by the returning officer, were—

Hunter	—	—	—	86
Plummer	—	—	—	85
Sir Wm. Manners	—	—	—	65
Graham	—	—	—	64

4, 5. "Determined, that T. Plummer, esq., and W. Hunter, esq., are not duly elected.

6, 7. "That Sir W. Manners, bart., and James Graham, esq., are not duly elected.

8. "That the last election is void.

9, 10, 11. "That neither the petition, nor the opposition of the sitting members, was frivolous or vexatious.

12. "That such a system of corruption was formed, and such instances of individual acts of bribery committed previous to the said election, with a view to influence the same, as to render it incumbent upon this committee to submit the same to the most serious consideration of the House, in order that such proceedings may be instituted as the House in its wisdom may think proper to adopt.

13. "That Alexander Davison, of St. James's-square, esq., was engaged in the said system of corruption.

14, 15. "That John White Parsons and Thomas Hopping, of West Camel, in the county of Somerset, were also engaged in the said system of corruption."

On the 28th of March the committee resolved, That the last eight resolutions should be reported to the House.

Upon the report being made, the minutes of the committee were ordered to be printed and laid before the House; and on April 22, 1803, the first of the special resolutions of the committee having been heard, the House resolved, "That such a system of corruption was formed, and such in-

stances of individual acts of bribery were committed previous to the said election, with a view to influence the same, as to render it necessary that the same should be taken into the most serious consideration of this House, and that further proceedings should be instituted thereon."

On the 18th of May, the resolutions of the committee respecting the persons engaged in the said system of corruption, &c., were read and agreed to, and the attorney-general was directed to prosecute them for their offence.

The information filed by the attorney-general was tried at the spring assizes at Taunton, in 1804, before Mr. Baron Graham, when the three defendants were found guilty; and being brought up for judgment in Easter term following, were severally sentenced by the court of King's Bench to one year's imprisonment in the prison of that court.

Peckwell,
vol. ii. p.
237-255.

Nov. 25, 1803, John Manners, esq., petitioned against the election of Charles Brooke, esq., and William Webb, esq., against the election of Sir W. Manners, bart. A committee to try this case was appointed Feb. 14, 1804. The petition of Mr. Manners stated, that Mr. Brooke had been guilty of bribery and treating. The same allegation was contained in Mr. Webb's petition against Sir W. Manners. Mr. Manners declined producing any evidence in support of his petition.

On March 7, the committee determined, That Charles Brooke, esq., was duly elected; that neither Sir W. Manners, bart., nor John Manners, esq., nor William Webb, esq., was duly elected,

and that the election of Sir W. Manners was void; and that Sir W. Manners, by himself and his agents, and Mr. Webb, by his agents, had been guilty of bribery.

Another election was consequently held, and John Manners, esq., was returned. Mr. Ogle petitioned against his return, March 29, 1804; and a motion having been negatived for discharging the order for taking the petition into consideration, (April 13,) the committee was appointed April 20. On the 23d they reported the sitting member to be duly elected, and the petition to be frivolous and vexatious. The counsel for the sitting member admitted that a notice had been given to him of the petitioner's intention not to give evidence in support of his petition; and left it to the committee to decide as they thought proper.

March 7, 1804. Reported: "That the election was a void election as far as it related to Sir William Manners, and that it appeared to the committee that he had been guilty of bribery and corruption, and that he was incapable of representing in Parliament the borough of Ilchester."

CORPORATION

Consists of a bailiff and twelve capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION,

May 7, 1689, alleged to be in the Inhabitants of the said town paying scot and lot, which the town called pot-wallers.

Jan. 28, 1702. Agreed to be in the Bailiff, Capital Burgesses, and Inhabitants not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—60.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

PROPRIETOR—Sir William Manners.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough, like Cricklade, Shoreham, and Aylesbury, has been so imprudent in the exercise of its corruption, as to have the whole system several times exposed before committees of the House of Commons; but like Shaftesbury, Hindon, Stockbridge, Helstone, and many others, where the bribery has been specially reported to the House, as in the four former, it has escaped disfranchisement, while Cricklade, Shoreham, and Aylesbury, have had the right of voting extended to the neighbouring hundreds. Why this distinction has been made between boroughs proved to have been equally guilty of corruption, we do not presume to determine. It is, however, remarkable, that those which have had the right of election extended were open boroughs, which sold the representation to the highest bidder, without regard to party; while Shaftesbury, Hindon, Stockbridge, Helston, and Ilchester, were all the private property, or subject to the influence, of some nobleman, or member of the House of Commons.

The corrupt state of this borough has been reported to the House by their committees, and is briefly stated in the Representative History from

their own Journals. The increase in the price of votes appears to have exceeded that of land and manufactures for the last century, by which it appears that borough corruption has been the most flourishing trade during that period. In the year 1702, the price of votes at this place was only two guineas; in 1768 it had risen to thirty. Lord Chesterfield, in his Letters to his Son, observes, that, wanting to procure him a seat in Parliament, he sent for a borough-monger, who asked 1,500*l*. In the will of the late Lord Vernon, proved the 13th of July, 1812, he bequeaths to his son-in-law, the Hon. Edward Harbord, a sum not exceeding 5,000*l*. towards the purchase of a seat in Parliament! and this we understand to have been the price for the last thirty years. In addition to this, we find the proprietors of boroughs created peers, or holding the most lucrative employments in the state.

The houses in this place were purchased up about the year 1784, by the late John Harcourt, esq., who sold them to Richard Troward, esq., attorney at law, of Norfolk-street. Mr. Troward sold them again to his partner, the late Mr. Albany Wallis, who bequeathed them to Colonel Bayley, from whom they were purchased by Sir William Manners, the present proprietor, who has since possessed himself of nearly the whole borough.

At the general election in 1802, a great majority of the voters were bribed at 30*l*. a man to vote against the proprietor. This caused the trial and conviction of Alexander Davison, esq., and his agents, at the assizes for the county of Somerset,

in 1804; for which they afterwards received sentence in the court of King's Bench to suffer one year's imprisonment.

To prevent a similar occurrence at a future election, Sir William Manners caused all the houses to be pulled down, except about sixty, in order to limit the number of voters; and erected a large workhouse, to accommodate those whose disobedience had offended him. The number of houses destroyed upon this occasion was about one hundred, and the electors who occupied them, with their families, have mostly resided in the workhouse ever since; the nomination of the members is thereby transferred from about one hundred and sixty householders to an individual.

MINEHEAD.

MINEHEAD, a sea-port, borough, and market-town, in the hundred of Carhampton, Somerset, 24 miles from Bridgewater, and 168 from London, on the borders of Exmouth forest; containing 303 houses, and 1,168 inhabitants, of whom 111 were employed in trade and manufacture; but its consequence has much declined of late years, and its manufactures of woollen are now nearly gone to decay, its chief traffic being in the coal trade and a small herring fishery. The harbour is very safe and commodious, and easy of access. From the salubrity of the air and pleasant situation, Minehead is now much resorted to during the summer for sea-bathing.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was originally a feudal tenure annexed to the castle of Dunster, which was given by William the Conqueror to William de Mohun, in whose family it continued till Sir John de Mohun, one of the first knights of the Garter, having no male issue, conveyed it to trustees for the use of his wife, who, after his decease, sold it, in the reign of King Edward III., to the Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, daughter of Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, and widow of Sir Andrew Luttrell, knt. Her son, Henry Luttrell, knt., who was lieutenant of Harfleur, and steward of the household to Henry the Fifth's queen, added several buildings, now standing, and left the castle and honour to his posterity, by whom it is still possessed, and who is the present owner and patron of this borough, and at whose court-leet the returning officers are chosen.

PETITIONS, &c. Dec. 22, 1698. A petition of John Sandford, esq., together with the constable and several of the principal inhabitants, against the return of Jacob Banks, esq., a foreigner, accusing him of bribery and other undue practices.

No determination.

March 30, 1715. A petition of Samuel Edwyn, and James Milner, esqrs., against the return of Sir William Wyndham and Sir John Trevelian, bart., complaining of bribery, &c.

Sept. 10. After a long hearing, it was

Resolved: "That Sir William Wyndham is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That Sir John Trevelian, bart., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That Samuel Edwyn, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That James Milner, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved: "That the late election is a void election."

May 8, 1717. A petition of John Jones and George James, constables, and several voters of the said borough, shewing, that at the last election the candidates were, Sir John Trevelian, James Milner, Samuel Edwyn, and Thomas Gage, esqrs.; and that, notwithstanding bribery, treating, and many other indirect practices used by the said Mr. Edwyn and Mr. Gage, and their agents, to obtain votes for them, yet the said Sir John Trevelian and Mr. Milner had a vast majority of votes, and were, by the petitioners, the constables, declared to be duly elected.

May 16. A petition of Sir John Trevelian, bart., and James Milner, esq., against Samuel Edwyn and Thomas Gage, esqrs.

May 21. A petition of George Speake, esq., lord of the manor of Alcombe, in the said borough, shewing, that John Jones and George James have declared themselves constables of the said borough; that the inhabitants of Alcombe being pot-boilers, have always voted at all elections; that the said constables have no authority in any part of the said manor, but that the tything-man chosen in the said manor is the only proper officer there.

Resolved: "That the indenture signed by the burgesses, not being signed by John Jones, one of the said burgesses to whom the said sheriff caused his precept to be delivered, is an undue and insufficient return."

Resolved: "That the indenture signed by the said John Jones and other burgesses of the said borough, and which was tendered to the said sheriff, is a due and sufficient return."

June 4. A petition of Thomas Gage, esq., and Samuel Edwyn, esq., against the return of Sir John Trevelian and James Milner, esq.

Resolved: "That the constables of this borough are the proper officers to whom the precept for electing burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough ought to be delivered, and to whom the execution of the said precept doth belong."

Dec. 3. The petition of Thomas Gage and Samuel Edwyn, esqrs., was read, in substance the same with the former petition.

Resolved: "The right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the parishioners of Minehead and Dunster, being housekeepers within the borough of Minehead, not receiving alms."

Resolved: "That Thomas Wickland be examined in the presence of John Vicary respecting bribery."

Resolved; "That Joseph Alloway, having been charged with having been a distributor of bribes, be examined as a witness in this cause."

After much debate, it was resolved, "That Sir John Trevelian, bart., is duly elected."

Jan. 8, 1722. A petition of John Thomas and John Floyde, constables of this borough, against John Vicary and Joseph Sherry as to the right of being the proper returning officers."

Upon which it was resolved: "That John Vicary and Joseph Sherry having presumed to act as returning officers at the late election of burgesses to serve in this Parliament for this borough, in defiance of a resolution of this House, are guilty of a high crime and misdemeanor."

Ordered: "That the said John Vicary and Joseph Sherry be, for the said offence, taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House."

Resolved: "That John Fox, being employed to carry the writ for the late election for this borough, has been guilty of a breach of trust in delivering the same to a candidate."

Ordered: "That the said John Fox be, for his said offence, committed to the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Jan. 20. A petition of Sir Richard Lane, knt., against the return of Robert Mansell, esq., complaining of bribery and other illegal practices."

Resolved: "That — Day, late under-sheriff of the county of Somerset, having delivered the sheriff's precept for electing a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough to John Vicary and Joseph Sherry, two of the burgesses for the said borough, but not constables thereof, is guilty of a breach of trust."

Ordered: "That — Day be, for his offence, taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms."

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Samuel Edwyn and Francis Whitworth, esqrs., against the return of Robert Mansell and Thomas Hales, esqrs., complaining that the constables arbitrarily took upon themselves to disallow votes who offered to poll for the petitioners, and to allow unwarrantable votes in favour of Mr. Mansell and Mr. Hales.

A petition of the capital burgesses and electors of the said borough to the same effect.

No determination.

January 27, 1728. Sir William Codrington, bart., and George Grove, esq., petitioned. The latter neglected to deliver in his qualification in time, according to order: the former renewed his petition sess. 2 and 3.

Mr. Langston and Mr. Woodbridge petitioned Dec. 7, 1802, which was renewed Nov. 28, 1803. In this case the petitioners produced no evidence in support of their petition; and on Feb. 24, 1804, the sitting members, Mr. Luttrell and Mr. Patterson, were reported to be duly elected.

Peckwell,
v. i., p. 25.

CORPORATION.

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in the Parishioners of Dunster and Minehead, being Housekeepers in the borough of Minehead, and not receiving alms. Feb. 24, 1717.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—260.

RETURNING OFFICERS—two constables, annually chosen at the court-leet of the lord of the manor.

PROPRIETOR—John Fownes Luttrell, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This being a proprietary borough, and having been as anciently so as any we meet with, presents nothing remarkable, but that of a contest which arose here in opposition to the proprietor, at the general election of 1796, when the late John Langston, esq., the banker, purchased a piece of land, and erected several new houses in the borough. He was returned to that Parliament, but was unsuccessful at the following election in 1802, when there were six candidates, and the numbers polled were as follows :

J. F. Luttrell, esq. 139

J. Patterson, esq. 139

J. Langston, esq. 108

J. Woodbridge, esq. 106

P. Cazalet, esq. 13

D. Walters, esq. 13

The two last became candidates under the expectation of proving bribery against both the other parties, and obtaining their seats.

In 1807 there was another contest, the Hon. T. Bowes opposed the proprietor, when the numbers were—

For Mr. Luttrell, 128

Mr. Dennison 108

Hon. T. Bowes 64

Since this period, Mr. Luttrell has had the quiet nomination of the members.

MILBORN PORT.

MILBORN PORT, a borough and parish in the hundred of Horethorn, Somerset, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Shaftesbury, $2\frac{1}{2}$ from Sherborne, 117 from London; situated on a branch of the river Parrot, and containing 198 houses, and 953 inhabitants, of whom 400 were employed in various trades, and in the manufacture of dowlas, tickings, linsey, stockings and shoes. The parish is divided into three hamlets, called Milborn Port, Kingsbury Regis, and Milborn Wike; however, the borough and that part called Kingsbury, lie in many places promiscuously intermixed, both in the main town and at Milborn Wyke, which lies about one mile north. That part called Kingsbury Regis, has land-tax and parochial assessments different from the borough, but one has the same church as the other, and the same poor, excepting that the charity called Commonalty is given only to the poor of the borough. At Kingsbury an annual court baron is held, wherein the lord's rents are paid, presentments made, and a constable, tythingman, and hayward appointed; the hayward serves in and for both districts; the other two officers for Kingsbury only.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough returned burgesses to Parliament in the 26th, 28th, 33d, and 35th of Edward I.; but then ceased, until the reign of King Charles I., when it was restored.

May 1, 1628. Report concerning this borough and Weobly in Herefordshire, who anciently sent burgesses to Parliament and have discontinued long.

That many of the records perished viz., of 52 Parliaments; from 28th of Edward I. to the third of Edward II. That boroughs did sometimes send, sometimes forbear in respect of poverty, not being able to pay the burgess wages. By the writ, every ancient borough ought to send burgesses,
1. The bounds hereof are like of ancient boroughs.
2. Pay Burgage-rents.

The committee satisfied the following boroughs ought to send burgesses; and that the long discontinuance no loss of it. This no franchise which may be lost, but a service *pro bono publico*. Boroughs of Ilchester, Pomfret, and Hertford, 18 Jac. restored; so three in Buckinghamshire, 21 Jac.

Aug. 13, 1660. Ordered: "That Mr. Henry Milborne be summoned to answer the misdemeanor with which he is charged, in keeping the writ for the election of a burgess unexecuted, whereby the House is deprived of a member to serve for the said borough.

May 17, 1661. Report touching the return for this borough, That Francis Wyndham, esq., and Michael Mallet, esq., are returned by one indenture, and Henry Milborne, esq., and Michael Mallet, esq., are returned by another; the first indenture is returned by one as sub-bailiff, the other concludes by deputy.—Opinion of the committee, That the last return is no return, and that the said

Francis Wyndham ought to sit till the merits of the cause be determined.

Jan. 3, 1701. A petition of John Henley, esq., against the return of Sir Thomas Travel, complaining that Sir Thomas Travel was, and is, one of the capital bailiffs, to whom the precept was, and ought to be, directed; who, to give colour that himself might be elected, pretended to swear and admit Guy White and —— Snook as his deputy bailiffs, and procured them to return himself, though incapable of being elected by reason of his said office, as advised.

Oct. 26, 1702. A petition of John Henley, esq., against the return of John Hunt, esq., complaining of partiality and an undue return made by one of the returning officers.

—— 27. A petition of John Hunt, esq., against John Henley, esq., to the same effect.

A petition of Thomas Medlycott, esq., shewing there are several capital bailiwicks within this borough, of which Sir Thomas Travel has five; and by turns the capital burgesses nominate the under-bailiffs, who are the magistrates of the said town, and to whom the precept for electing burgesses to Parliament is directed, and who have the forming of the lists of voters, management of the election, and return of the precept. That this year Sir Thomas Travel had the naming of both the bailiffs, whereby, in effect, he is returned by himself: that soon after the king's death, Sir Thomas Travel, by his agent, Edward Feltram, distributed great doles of corn to many of the electors, and another dole just before the election; by which illegal practices

the said Sir Thomas Travel procured himself to be returned, though neither duly elected or returned, as the petitioner conceives.

Report upon the petitions of Mr. Henley and Mr. Hunt, "That it appeared that Mr. Hunt was returned by one bailiff and Mr. Henley by another; that upon the poll the numbers were for Mr. Henley 77, for Mr. Hunt 46; that both agreed this was a borough by prescription, but disputed in whom was the right of election."

Resolved: "That the right of election of burgesses to serve in this present Parliament for this borough is only in the capital bailiffs and their deputies in the commonalty, steward, and inhabitants thereof, paying scot and lot."

That upon this head of not paying scot and lot, Mr. Henley took off twenty-one of Mr. Hunt's voters. Some evidence was given as to others who did not pay, but it was answered they were capital bailiffs, or their deputies.

That Mr. Hunt, upon this head of not paying, took fifty-eight of Mr. Henley's voters.

Resolved: "That John Hunt, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Nov. 14, 1705. A petition of Sir Richard Newman, bart., and Henry Devenish, esq., against the return of Sir Thomas Travel and Thomas Medlycot, esq.

No report.

Nov. 24, 1708. A petition of Giles Hayne, esq., against the return of Sir Thomas Travel and Mr. Medlycot.

Nov. 26. A petition of Thomas Searl, John Bret, and several other inhabitants of this borough, to the same effect.

No determination.

Nov. 27, 1710. A petition of William Malet, esq., and also a petition of the inhabitants of this borough.

Dec 1. Ordered: "That Mr. Malet and the inhabitants of this borough have leave to withdraw their said petitions.

June 18, 1717. A petition of Charles Stanhope, esq., against the return of Michael Harvey, esq., complaining of bribery, confining, and threatening the voters of the petitioners, and other illegal practices.

Reported, That the right of election was agreed to be in the capital bailiffs and their deputies, in the commonalty, stewards, and inhabitants paying scot and lot. The poll was—

For Mr. Harvey.....27

The petitioner.....22

Bret said, Guy White, jun., asked votes for Mr. Harvey, and gave him five guineas for his.

John Bowden said, Guy White, jun., gave Benjamin Cox five guineas for his vote for Mr. Harvey, as both White and Cox owned to witness.

Joseph Raymond said, Robert Curtis owned he had five guineas of Mr. Harvey's money for his vote.

John Bowden also named eight voters who were treated.

Benjamin Cox, who voted for Mr. Harvey, said he had six guineas to vote for the petitioner.

After much debate it was resolved :

“ That Michael Harvey, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That Charles Stanhope, esq., is duly elected.”

In the year 1747, Michael Harvey and Jeffry Inch, esqrs., and Thomas Medlycot and Charles Churchill, esqrs., were returned. This being a borough by prescription, there have always been in it nine capital bailiffs, who hold their respective offices by virtue of deputations, granted by the proprietors of nine ancient parcels of borough lands. Two of them preside yearly, by rotation, as head officers ; and these two presiding capital bailiffs may, if they please, (at a court-leet held in October yearly,) appoint substitutes to execute the menial offices of the borough, who are called sub-bailiffs. This borough discontinued sending members to Parliament for many years ; but was restored to its ancient privileges in the 4th of Charles I., since which time it has continued to send two members to every Parliament ; and the sheriff's precept for choosing members is always directed to the bailiffs thereof.

For several years after the borough was restored to its privileges, the two presiding capital bailiffs, when present, or one of them when the other was absent, enjoyed the sole right of making the return to the sheriff's precept, that is to say, of returning the members they thought legally chosen.

But since the Restoration, these nine ancient parcels of borough lands having been all engrossed, and become the property of two neighbouring gentlemen, by agreement between themselves, they,

or some of their friends, were generally chosen, and returned without opposition; and, as it often happened, that neither of the capital presiding bailiffs were present, the return was often made by their substitutes or sub-bailiffs, but sometimes by the capital bailiff or bailiffs, and most frequently by the bailiffs and burgesses of the said borough. This was the constitution of the borough at an election, when Thomas Medlycot, esq., and William Bishop, were the presiding bailiffs, and one Arthur Ansty, said to be a common day-labourer, and servant to the said Thomas Medlycot, was the sub-bailiff, appointed by the said Medlycot. The candidates were, Michael Harvey and Jeffry French, esqrs., on one side, and the said Thomas Medlycot and Charles Churchill, esqrs., on the other side; and when the election was over, the return of the two former was made to the sheriff by the said William Bishop, which he accepted, and annexed to his precept; but some days after, another return of the two latter was made to the sheriff by the said Arthur Ansty, which he likewise accepted, and annexed to his precept: so that his writ was returned with a double return for the said borough; which was the legal return was the question, and the only question that by order came to be determined on Thursday the 1st of December last.

As to the return made by William Bishop, it was objected, first, that the sub-bailiffs, and not the capital bailiffs, were, by the custom of that borough, the returning officers; and, secondly, that the said William Bishop was not properly quali-

fied to act, because he had not previously taken an oath of office. To the first objection it was answered, that by the custom of the borough the sub-bailiffs never acted but in the absence, or by the order or permission of, their principals; and when either of the capital bailiffs was present, neither of the sub-bailiffs could act as a principal, the capital bailiffs being then the sole presiding officers. To the second objection it was answered, that William Bishop had taken all the oaths requisite by law; but that an oath of office was not requisite, either by law or the custom of that borough, as had been admitted by the said Thomas Medlycot himself. Then, as to the return made by the said Arthur Ansty, it was objected, first, That as he was only a sub-bailiff, and both the capital presiding bailiffs not only present, but acting as presiding officers, he could not act as a presiding officer in any case whatsoever, much less in such a principal one as that of returning members to Parliament; and, secondly, That the return made by the said Arthur Ansty was void, by virtue of a resolution of that House of the 2d of June, 1685; by which it was resolved, That no mayor, bailiff, or other officer, to whom the precept ought to be directed, is capable of being elected to serve in Parliament for the same borough of which he is mayor, bailiff, or other officer, at the time of election. And as the return made by the said Arthur Ansty must be supposed to be a return made by the said Thomas Medlycot, whose substitute and servant he was according to the axiom in law, *qui fecit per alium, fecit per se*: therefore, by this reso-

lution it ought to be void. To the first objection it was answered, That by the custom of the borough, the sub-bailiffs were the only proper returning officers, consequently the return made by Arthur Ansty was the only legal return; and to the second it was answered, That if the axiom of law were to be applied to the election for this borough, neither of the two proprietors of the nine ancient parcels of borough lands could ever be chosen or returned as representatives for this borough; because, both the capital and sub-bailiffs are but their deputies; and as this would be inconsistent with common law, as well as contrary to the custom of the borough ever since the above-mentioned resolution, it could not be supposed that the House thereby intended to render the sub-bailiffs of this borough incapable of returning, either their immediate principals, the capital bailiffs, or their remote principals, the proprietors of these ancient parcels of borough lands. Upon the whole, the house, after having spent two days in hearing counsel, reading former returns, &c., and examining witnesses, came to a resolution, That the execution of a precept for electing burgesses to serve in Parliament for the borough of Milborn Port, and the making the return thereof, are only in the two sub-bailiffs of the said borough, or in one sub-bailiff, if there are not two, (one *sub-bailiff* is undoubtedly more likely to be bribed than *two capital bailiffs*,) in consequence of which, the clerk of the crown, by order, took off the file the return made by William Bishop, and the said Thomas Medly-

cot and Charles Churchill, esqrs., became thereby the only sitting members.

ANOTHER CASE.

On the 20th of January, 1775, the petition of Edward Walter, esq., and Isaac Hawkins Browne, esq., against the return of the Hon. Temple Luttrell and Charles Wolseley, came on to be tried by a committee of the House of Commons.

There were three petitions read; when it appeared, that there were, in this case, three returns made by different persons claiming to be returning officers, all of which had been annexed to the writ by the sheriff, and returned into the office of the clerk of the crown; by one, Walter and Browne; by the other two, Luttrell and Wolseley, were returned.

The petitions likewise contained a claim made by each party, of the majority of legal votes, and mutual allegations of bribery. In the petition of Walter and Browne, it was also alleged, that Luttrell, at the time of his election and return, “ had, “ by himself or some person in trust for him, “ an office, place, or employment, touching or “ concerning the farming, collecting, or managing “ his majesty’s customs,” whereby he was incapable of being elected. It was agreed, first, to proceed upon the legality of the different returns separately from the other questions; and the return of Walter and Browne, being *immediately* annexed to the precept, their counsel began:

Mr. Medlycot’s property is so intermixed with

Mr. Walter's, that in following the established rotation, in some years one of the reigning bailiffs is in the appointment of Medlycot, and the other in the appointment of Walter; in some years they are both appointed by Medlycot, and in others, both by Walter. In 1773, one of them was appointed by Medlycot, who nominated one Elias Oliver to be his sub-bailiff, and the other by Walter, who nominated one Robert Baunton to be his sub-bailiff. In 1774, it was Mr. Medlycot's turn to appoint both the reigning bailiffs. The sub-bailiffs have always been appointed at a court-leet after Michaelmas-day, holden by a steward, named by the former sub-bailiff. Since the interests have divided, there have been two stewards, who have holden separate courts, but always on the same day. It appeared by the witnesses, that the court-leet for appointing sub-bailiffs had always been holden, before and since the style was altered, on the first Tuesday after a fair at Sherborne, called Pack-Monday fair; and that there were entries to this purpose in the minute-book of the steward of the court, but in none of the court-books or rolls, was there any entry referring the holding of the court to the Tuesday after Sherborne fair; it only appeared to have been always holden on the first Tuesday of October, before the change of the style took place.

On the 3rd of October, 1774, the precept for the election was delivered to Robert Baunton, who gave his receipt for it; and having communicated with the other sub-bailiff (Oliver), they concurred in appointing the day of election to be

on the 10th, (the 4th being the first Tuesday in October, N. S.,) Oliver, together with Medlycot and others, broke open the town-hall, the person who had the key not being found; and Mr. Medlycot having nominated his brother, the Rev. George Hutching and Robert Curtis to be the reigning capital bailiffs for the year ensuing, they came into the court-leet, (which was opened according to form,) and appointed John Newton, jun., and John Peckham, to be their sub-bailiffs: thereigning bailiffs and the sub-bailiffs enter on their offices immediately after their appointment. At the same court, Oliver was appointed a constable by the jury, and sworn into that office. On the 10th the election came on, and there were three polls taken; one by Baunton, who declared the majority of legal votes to be in favour of Walter and Browne, and accordingly annexed a return of them to the precept: one by Oliver, and a third by Newton and Peckham. By each of the two last, Luttrell and Wolseley had the majority of votes; and accordingly there were two returns made of them. Counter-parts of all the three were executed by the under-sheriff, and they were all annexed to the writ. If Newton and Peckham were the legal bailiffs at the time of election, their return only was valid; if they were not, it was void; and in such case, the question would be, Whether the return of Baunton or of Oliver was the legal return? or whether they were both void? If the court-leet, holden on the 4th of October, was the legal court for the appointment of the annual sub-bailiffs, Newton and Peckham were the legal sub-

bailiffs and returning officers on the 10th. The question concerning the legality of the court-leet turned chiefly upon the statute for altering the style.

The counsel for Walter and Browne contended, That the court in question was "*a court usually holden with a fair*, and to be holden on the same natural day as formerly, that is, according to the old style." That this was evident from the constant practice since the change of the style, and the general sense of the place, and from the steward's book.

That if it were not so, yet the holding it last year according to the new style, for the first time, immediately on the eve of the election, contrary to the usage ever since the statute of 24 George II., without any notice being given of such an intended innovation, till the precept for the election came to the borough, shewed that the intention of holding it then was occasional, and evidently only taken up on account of the dissolution of the Parliament, which brought on the election before Mr. Medlycot's two sub-bailiffs could have come into office, if he had waited till the usual time; consequently, that on this ground the appointment of Newton and Peckham was fraudulent and void.

That if they were legally appointed, still the former sub-bailiffs, being the returning officers at the time when the precept was delivered, and one of them having received, and given his receipt for it, they were the only persons competent to make the return, according to the 7th and 8th of William III., cap. 25.

That if the question came to be argued between the returns made by Baunton and Oliver, it was clear that Oliver, by accepting the office of constable at the court-leet, holden on the 4th of October, had abdicated his former office, and could not afterwards pretend to exercise it; so that Baunton was the only sub-bailiff at the time of election, and must of course be the only legal returning officer.

The counsel for Luttrell and Wolsey argued, That though it did appear that the Michaelmas court-leet had usually been holden on the Tuesday after Sherborne, or Pack-Monday fair, yet *that* was merely *accidental*; because it happens that the first Tuesday in October must of necessity be the day immediately following the first Monday after Michaelmas.—That the entries in the minute or memorandum-book of the steward, prove only that he assisted his memory in recollecting the time of holding the court, by referring it to Pack-Monday.—That it was natural, from this *accidental* connexion between the two days, for the people of Milborn Port to call the court-day Pack-Tuesday.—That if they had any *necessary* connexion, it would have appeared by entries in the court-books, in some such terms as these: “At a court holden on the first Tuesday after Pack-Monday, or Sherborne fair;” but no such entry could be found.

That it did not appear that the office of constable and that of sub-bailiff were incompatible.

The counsel for Walter and Browne, in reply, insisted, that there was nothing absurd in sup-

posing an original connexion between Sherborne-fair and the court-leet at Milborn Port, although the two places are in different counties.—That in former times the grants of the crown used to extend very commonly into different counties, and the fair and court, at first, might have made part of the same grant.—That it is not true, that if a fair were forfeited, a court *usually holden with it*, but belonging to another person would be so likewise.—That the old prescriptive day for holding the fair would still continue to be the guide for fixing the prescriptive day for the court-leet.

The committee having cleared the court, deliberated among themselves ; and the counsel being again called in, the chairman acquainted them, that the committee had resolved,

“ That the return made by John Newton, jun., and John Peckham, of Mr. Luttrell, and Mr. Wolseley, was an illegal return.”

“ And that the other two returns appeared to the committee to be so complicated together, that they thought it their duty to go upon the merits of the election, without previously deciding between them.

The counsel for Walter and Browne now went into the whole that remained of their part, the bribery by Luttrell and Wolseley, or their agents, and Luttrell's ineligibility. When they had finished and summed up their evidence, the counsel on the other side proceeded to remove the imputation of bribery from Luttrell and Wolseley, and to fix bribery on the other two candidates. Lastly, they answered the objections to Luttrell's eligibility ;

and after they had summed up their case, the counsel on the other side replied.

During the trial of this petition, the committee thought fit to propose, that the following question should be urged by the counsel, viz.

“ Whether persons rateable, and having paid to the rate, though that rate was made and collected by officers illegal or doubtful, may vote as inhabitants paying scot and lot.”

The counsel for Walter and Browne contended, that they might. They said that scot and lot existed long before overseers of the poor, or poor rates, were known in England, and for this they appealed to the definitions in Spelman's Glossary. That the poor-rate indeed was, in common cases, very properly taken to be the rule for discovering who are to be considered as persons paying scot and lot, but that the right of such persons to vote is so far from being created by the poor rate, that it is neither necessarily connected with, nor altered by it.

The committee, after hearing the counsel on the other side, cleared the court, and resolved,

“ That persons *rateable*, and *having paid* to the *rate*, though that rate be made by officers illegal or doubtful, have a right to vote, as inhabitants paying scot and lot.”

On the head of Mr. Luttrell's ineligibility, it appeared, from the evidence of Mr. Charles Hartford, the person who executes the office he was supposed to hold as deputy, that it is the place of *Customer inwards in the port of Bristol*. That it stands in the name of one Mr. Smith, who re-

sides in Ireland, and the accounts are always made out in his name. He said, he paid profits (amounting to between three and four hundred pounds a-year) to Luttrell, considering him as agent for Smith. That he had seen a power of attorney from Smith to Luttrell, authorizing him to appoint a deputy for him; and that he had received a deputation from Luttrell, as attorney for Smith, but that afterwards, that deputation being found to be improper, he had destroyed it, and had received his deputation (which was produced and read) directly from Smith. That he thought from this transaction, that there was such a connexion between Smith and Luttrell, as made it safe for him to pay the money to Luttrell; but that he never had considered, whether the payments he had made to Luttrell were strictly legal, and he thought, that if Smith were to die, he would be liable to pay the arrears of the profits to his executors. He said he was appointed by Mr. Luttrell's interest.

On the part of Walter and Browne it was contended, that Smith's holding the office was merely colourable. That Luttrell received the profits, and was in substance the person who possessed the office; and that he was thereby incapable of being elected, since the statute of the 12th and 13th of William III.

Mr. Luttrell's council contended, it was unnecessary to urge this point, as no evidence had been given to shew that he had any beneficial interest in the place. John Coxe Hippenesley, esq., barrister, being called on the subject of Mr. Luttrell's office, refused to answer any questions which

might affect him, as he had constantly acted as his confidential adviser and counsel.

The committee took several days to consider of the merits of this election, after the counsel had closed their evidence and their arguments.

On Friday, the 10th of February, their chairman informed the House, that the committee had determined,

“ That Edward Walter, esq. is not duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parliament, for the borough of Milborne-port, in the county of Somerset.

“ That Isaac Hawkins Browne, esq. is not duly elected.

“ That the Hon. Temple Luttrell, and Charles Wolseley, esq. are duly returned burgesses to serve in this present Parliament, by the return executed by *Elias Oliver*.”

There was also a petition, in 1772, of George Prescott, esq., against Richard Combe, esq., the sitting member, when the petitioner was declared duly elected; but as there is nothing in that case but what is reported in the above, we shall not trouble our readers with a repetition of it.

A very serious charge of corruption was brought against Lord North, in the House of Commons, during his administration, by the Hon. Temple Luttrell, for *inducing* Thomas Hutchins Medlycot, esq., one of the proprietors of this borough, to oppose the re-election of Mr. Luttrell at the ensuing dissolution of Parliament, in 1780; when, after a full hearing, the House got rid of the business in a

manner nearly similar to that of Mr. Rose in Westminster.

The Hon. Temple Luttrell having petitioned against the election of John Townsend and Thos. H. Medlycott, esqrs., on the 7th of May, 1781, the chairman of the committee appointed to try this contested election reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected. A witness on the part of the petitioner had been called, to prove agency to the sitting members, by ordering treats and dinners at a tavern, and paying for them on their behalf. The counsel for the latter objected to the evidence, because there was no charge of *treating* in the petition, and it might avoid the election according to the Treating Act. Luders,
v. ii. p. 532.

In 1796, Norman M'Leod, esq., and several of the inhabitants, petitioned against the return of Henry Lord Paget and Sir Robert Ainslie, knt. A day was appointed for hearing the petition, but Mr. M'Leod, not having given in his recognizance agreeable to law, the order for hearing his petition was discharged. The merits of the other petition, (which was presented by Thomas Hyde and John Matthews, on behalf of themselves and others, electors of the borough of Milborne-port,) in part depended upon the right of election. Dec. 12, 1796, the chairman reported to the House, that the sitting members were duly elected, and that the petition was not frivolous or vexatious.

And that it appeared to the said select committee that the merits of the petition did in part depend upon the right of election; and that there-

upon the said committee required the counsel for the several parties, to deliver to the clerk of the said committee statements in writing, of the right of election for which they respectively contended under the last determination in 1702.

The statement of the petitioners.

“ The counsel for the petitioners state, that the
“ right of election of members to serve in Parlia-
“ ment for this borough of Milbourne Port, in the
“ county of Somerset is in the two capital Bailiffs
“ commonly called reigning Bailiffs, and in their
“ deputies ; and in two commonalty Stewards,
“ and in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot.”

The statement of the sitting member.

“ The counsel for the sitting member state, that
“ the right of election of members to serve in Par-
“ liament for the borough of Milborne Port, in the
“ county of Somerset is only in the capital Bailiffs
“ and their deputies, the number of bailiffs being
“ nine, and their deputies being two ; in the com-
“ monalty Stewards, their number being two ; and
“ in the Inhabitants thereof, paying scot and lot.”

Determination of the select committee.

“ Upon the statement delivered in by the coun-
“ sel for the said petitioners, the said select com-
“ mittee have determined,

“ That the right of election as set forth in the
“ said statement is not the right of election for the
“ said borough of Milborne Port.”

“ Upon the statement delivered in by the coun-
“ sel for the sitting member the said select com-
“ mittee have determined,

“ That the right of election, as set forth in the

“ said statement, is the right of election for the said
“ borough of Milborne Port.”

Another petition from Emanuel Samuel and William Samuel Davison, &c., was presented in 1806 against the return of Lord Paget and Hugh Leycester, esq.

Ordered to be heard March 20th, 1807 ; but by neglecting to enter into proper recognizances the same was discharged in January by order of the House.

CORPORATION

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

As above.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—80.

RETURNING OFFICERS—two Sub-Bailiffs.

PROPRIETORS—Marquis of Anglesea and Sir Wm. Coles Medlycott.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This insignificant borough, which at the last poll taken in 1796, when General Norman Macleod, and Lucius Concannon, esq., were candidates, in opposition to Lord Paget and Sir Robert Ainsley, who were nominated by the late Earl of Uxbridge and Sir William Coles Medlycott, bart., the proprietors of the borough, the numbers of voters were only ninety-five and those were afterwards reduced to eighty.

The constitution of this borough, if an establishment that has puzzled a dozen committees of the

House of Commons to understand and explain deserves that name, is a feudal institution as absurd as most of the manorial customs introduced since the Conquest. Nine patches of borough land, the property of two men give a right of voting for members of Parliament to any nine persons to whom the proprietors choose to convey them for that purpose.

Two of these nine burgage, or feudal tenures preside yearly by rotation as returning officers, the persons to whom they are conveyed are called the nine bailiffs, as constituted by the conveyance of the tenures.

The two bailiffs, whose turn it happens to be to preside, may, if they please, appoint two substitutes at the court-leet, held annually in the month of October, who are called sub-bailiffs.

The sub-bailiffs are generally two of the servants of the proprietors, and not unfrequently have the honour of returning their masters to Parliament.

In addition to these nine feudal, or parchment voters, are all the householders paying scot and lot, amounting to about seventy more; fourteen of whom were objected to on the petition of General Macleod, and Mr. Concannon, as bad votes.

The nine patches of burgage tenure land, and most of the seventy scot and lot houses are the property of the Marquis of Anglesea and Sir William Coles Medlycott, who reside in the borough, but the Marquis of Anglesea has farmed Sir William's moiety of the borough upon lease, and nominates both the members.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

STAFFORDSHIRE is a county of England, bounded on the north-east by Derbyshire, on the east by Leicestershire, on the south-east by Warwickshire, on the south by Worcestershire, on the west by Salop, and on the north-west by Cheshire. Its length from north to south is about 60 miles, and its greatest breadth 38, and contains 780,800 acres of land, having about 500,000 arable and 100,000 in pasturage. It is divided into five hundreds, viz. Cuttlestone, Offlow, Pirehill, Seisdon, and Totmonslow, in which are one city, Litchfield, three boroughs, Stafford, Newcastle and Tamworth, 16 market-towns, viz. Abbots, Bromley, Brewood, Burton, Burslem, Cheadle, Eccleshall, Leek, Longnor, Penkridge, Rudgeley, Stone, Tutbury, Uttoxeter, Walsall, Wedresbury, Wolverhampton; and 181 parishes, the whole containing 45,198 houses, inhabited by 239,153 persons, viz. 118,698 males, and 120,455 females; of whom 72,465 were employed in trade, handicraft, and manufactures, and 43,930 in agriculture. The amount of assessment under the act granting the property tax in 1806, was £1,840,961 and the amount of money collected for the maintenance of the poor in 1803, £110,624 being at the rate of 4s. 2½d. in the pound; this country pays seven parts of the land-tax, and sends ten members to

Parliament. The average scale of mortality for ten years, appears to have been as one to $48\frac{1}{2}$ of the population. This county has long been noted for its potteries, and the perfection to which it has been brought of late years renders it a very important object of commerce, both foreign and domestic. Trade is particularly assisted in this county by canal navigation, which communicates with Birmingham, Stourbridge, Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull. It is included in the Oxford circuit, the province of Canterbury, and the diocese of Litchfield and Coventry.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county sent knights to Parliament in the 23d of Edward the First, and has continued so to do ever since.

No contest in Parliament appears on the Journals, nor any other matter relative to the election.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county is completely under the direction of aristocratic influence. The Marquis of Stafford and Lord Bagot, have the commanding interest. The Marquis of Bath, Marquis of Anglesea, Earl of Stamford, Earl Ferrers, Earl Talbot, the Earl of Dartmouth, Lord Vernon, and Lord Dudley, have also a powerful weight in this country; but the arrangement of parties, always throwing the preponderance of it into the scale of the two first, they have generally the dictation in the choice of the representatives.

LITCHFIELD.

LITCHFIELD, more properly LICHFIELD is a city, containing three parishes, in the hundred of Offlow, Stafford, on a small branch of the Trent, 119 miles from London by Coventry, and 124½ by Northampton. It contains 873 houses, and 4,712 inhabitants, viz. 2,145 males and 2,567 females, of whom 1666 were returned as employed in various trades and manufactures, particularly in that of coarse earthenware. In the year 1075 this see was removed to Chester, and in 1102 to Coventry, and not long after it was restored to Litchfield and united with Coventry. Here is a large gaol for debtors and felons, and a good free-school, at which Dr. Johnson received the rudiments of grammatical instruction. The markets are on Tuesday and Friday. Fairs the three first Thursdays after Twelfth-day, Ash Wednesday, May 1, and the Friday before St. Simon and St. Jude.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This city was represented in Parliament in the 33d of Edward the First, and 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 20th Edward the Second, and *anno* 1st, 14th, and 27th Edward the Third, intermitted sending till the reign of Edward the Sixth, who restored and incorporated it.

PETITIONS, &c. June 27, 1660. Reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections the case upon the return of this city; That upon exa-

mination it appeared, that the sheriff had used partiality in returning Mr. Watson (who was returned with Michael Biddulph, esq.) against Mr. Thomas Minors the petitioner, by not only denying the poll on the part of Mr. Minors, but saying that Mr. Watson had made such a party at the Committee of Privileges, that, though Mr. Minors had a thousand witnesses, he should not carry it, and that the committee found Mr. Minors had a great number of voices more than Mr. Watson; and were of opinion that the said Mr. Minors is duly elected, together with the said Mr. Biddulph, whereto the House agreed.

Resolved, "That the sheriff of the county of this city, in respect of his undue carriage at the election, be forthwith taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House.

March 7, 1677. A petition of Michael Biddulph, esq., complaining of the return of Sir Henry Littelton.

May 28, 1678. A petition of Michael Biddulph, esq., to the same effect.

No determination.

March 24, 1680. A petition of George Rodney Bridges, esq.

No report.

May 25, 1685. A petition of Sir Francis Lawley.

No report.

Dec. 14, 1698. A petition of Humphrey Wyrley, esq., against the return of Dyot and Sir Michael Biddulph.

Feb. 13, 1700. A petition of Humphrey

Wyrley, esq., against the return of Captain Dyot, and complaining of threats and promises, and other undue practices.

A petition of Sir Michael Biddulph, bart., against the return of William Walmsley, esq.

Report, "The first point which was controverted was the right of election, and this being formerly a borough, and now for some time past a city and county, it was insisted for Mr. Wyrley, that the right was under a threefold capacity; viz. In such as held by burgage-tenure, freeholders of forty shillings yearly, and freemen not receiving alms. The two first were agreed to: but, as to the third, it was insisted for Mr. Dyot, that it was restrained to those who paid scot and lot."

Resolved, "That the Bailiff, Magistrates, Freeholders of forty shillings yearly, and all that hold by burgage-tenure, have a right to vote in the election of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city.

"That such freemen only of the said city as are enrolled, and pay scot and lot, have also a right to vote in the election of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city."

Afterward a question arose as to the right of voting in persons inrolled in the old book of the Taylors' company: which was excepted to; and it was insisted none were entitled, but such as were inrolled in the new book.

Resolved, "That those inrolled in the old book of constitutions in the Taylors' company in this city have not a right to vote in the election.

"That those only inrolled in the new book of

constitution of the Taylors' company in this city, have a right to vote in the elections of citizens to serve in Parliament for this city."

After which a great number of witnesses were called, amongst whom Mabel Acton said, Mr. Dyot and Mr. Wakefield came to ask her husband's vote which she told them was disposed of; whereupon Mr. Dyot said it should be the worse for him; and the next day, upon the same answer, Mr. Dyot threatened he would fling her husband into gaol; that Lamb was asked for his vote, who gave the same answer; to which it was replied, if he would not go with the corporation, he would be turned out of his house; and Wakefield asked her for her husband, and said there was a charge against him for breaking Ruthin goal; and said, this he has got by voting: and on the election day (Acton) her husband coming to vote, Mr. Dyot did commit him to Litchfield goal, for suspicion of breaking the goal at Ruthin after conviction for horse stealing; though her husband had lived in this town twenty-one years, and voted for Sir Michael Biddulph, and Mr. Dyot at the last election; and Mr. Dyot caused her to be whipt, for taking some pease, she being with child and longing for them, though not worth above two-pence, and she would have paid ten shillings for them; and by reason thereof she miscarried soon after.

Rathbone said he was at a public-house where were Lord Stanhope, Mr. Dyot, and others, and all drank three shillings and six-pence, whereof Lord Stanhope paid two shillings and six-pence, and Mr. Wakefield one shilling, and one of them

said, if he would not vote for Mr. Dyot they would fine him on information, for calling Sir Michael Biddulph names ; and Sir Michael brought an action for five hundred pounds damages ; and his man said, his master would ruin him.

Mabel Acton said Lord Stanhope promised Cowper, if he would be for Sir Michael Biddulph, and Mr. Dyot, he would maintain him as long as he lived.

The counsel for Mr. Dyot called Bennet, who said, Mr. Walmesley desired his vote for Mr. Wyrley ; and Mr. Walmesley, about twelve months since, sent a letter to Mr. Harding, parson of Newcastle, which the carrier told him, was, that the carrier should turn him out of his employment, if he did not vote for Mr. Walmesley ; and Mr. Wyrley and Mr. Walmesley declared if they would vote for them, their markets should be free from tolls and arrests ; and said, he had given two hundred pounds in two years for poor tradesmen ; but he supposed it was out of the commutation money, for his own estate would not afford it.

Upon the whole the committee

Resolved, " That Richard Dyot, esq., is duly elected."

Resolved, " That William Walmesley, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved, " That Sir Michael Biddulph is duly elected."

May 13th. The House considered it, and resolved to disagree with the committee in the resolution in regard to Mr. Walmesley's not being elected.

Nov. 13, 1718. A petition of Walter Chetwynd against the return of William Sneyd, esq., complaining that John Mallet, sheriff of the said county, in taking the poll at the said election, had no regard to the last determination of the House of Commons of the right of election of the said city and county, notwithstanding notice given thereof.

Resolved, "That the right of election of citizens to serve in Parliament for the said city is in the Bailiffs, Magistrates, Freeholders of forty shillings per annum, and all that hold by burgage-tenure, and in such Freemen only of the said city as are enrolled paying scot and lot there."

Resolved, "That William Sneyd, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved, "That Walter Chetwynd, esq., is duly elected."

Oct 19, 1722. A petition of Thomas Clark, esq., against the return of Walter Chetwynd and Richard Plumer, esq.

A petition of several of the citizens, burgesses, and freemen of this city to the same effect.

No determination.

Jan. 27, 1728. Sir John Strahan, knt., and Thomas Bagshaw, esq., petitioned.

Nov. 25, 1762. Hugo Meynell, esq., petitioned.

On the same being heard at the bar, the petitioner was voted duly elected, and ought to have been returned; and that John Levett, esq., was not duly elected, and ought not to have been returned: the return amended accordingly.

CORPORATION

Consists of two bailiffs, a recorder, sheriff, and twenty-four burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 10, 1701. The Bailiff, Magistrates, Freeholders of forty shillings a year, and all that hold by burgage tenure, have a right to vote.

Such Freemen only of the said city as are enrolled, and pay scot and lot, have a right to vote.

Such Freemen of the Taylors' Company as are enrolled in the old book of the constitutions of the Taylors' Company, in the said city, have not a right to vote.

Such Freemen only of the Taylors' Company as are enrolled in the new book of the constitutions of the Taylors' Company, in the city of Litchfield, have a right to vote.

To these resolutions the House agreed.

Dec. 10, 1718. Is in the Bailiff, Magistrates, Freeholders of forty shillings per annum, and all that hold by burgage tenure, and in such Freemen only of the said city as are enrolled, paying scot and lot there.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Sheriff and Bailiffs.

PATRONS—Marquis of Stafford and Lord Viscount Anson.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The burgage tenures and freeholds which confer

the right of voting in this city are the property of the Marquis of Stafford and Lord Viscount Anson. Each of these noblemen nominate a member, and their families have done the same ever since the year 1747.

If the right of election was in the inhabitant householders, the number of voters would be near nine hundred, at present the number is about six hundred, and the nomination of the two lords is implicitly obeyed.

Litchfield stands in a valley, three miles south of the Trent, and is divided by a stream which runs into that river. That part of the town which is on the south side of this stream, is termed the City, and that on the north side is called the Close, from its being encompassed with a wall and dry ditch on every side, except that next the City, which is much the largest part, and is joined to the Close by two bridges.

STAFFORD.

STAFFORD, the county town of Staffordshire, situated in the hundred of Pirehill, 12 miles from Lichfield, and 135 from London. It is a borough, consisting of two parishes united, containing 710 houses, and 3,898 inhabitants, viz. 1,921 males, and 1,977 females; of whom 2,944 were employed in various trades. The town hall is a neat new building; it has also a spacious market. This town has a considerable traffic, by means of its canal communicating with all the neighbouring

counties. Its chief manufactures are cloth and shoes. The market is on Saturday; and its fairs are February 10, May 14, June 27, September 16, October 2, and December 4.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This was a borough at the time of the general survey, and sent members to Parliament 23 Edw. I.

PETITIONS, &c. March 22, 1623. A petition of Sir William Walter against the return of Mr. Dyall, upon which it appeared that no due public warning of the election had been given; the committee were of opinion that it was a void election, and a new writ was ordered accordingly.

March 24, 1689. A petition of Philip Foley, esq., against the return of Jonathan Cope, esq.

Oct. 6, 1690. A petition of the said Philip Foley, the same as before.

Dec. 2, 1710. A petition of Henry Vernon, jun., against the return of Walter Chetwynd, esq., complaining of his bribery, treats, and threats, &c.

Also a petition of several freemen, and sons of burgesses of this borough.

Jan. 25, 1711. Upon the hearing the above petitions it was resolved, "That the sons of burgesses, and those that have served as apprentices seven years in this borough have a right upon demand thereof to be made burgesses of this borough.

Whereupon the counsel for the sitting member withdrew his petition.

Resolved, "That Walter Chetwynd, esq., is not duly elected."

“ That Henry Vernon, jun., esq., is duly elected.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Walter Lord Viscount Chetwynd, and William Chetwynd, esq., against the return of Thomas Foley and John Dolphin, complaining of bribery, and other indirect practices.

Upon which a question arose as to the right of election ; when, after a great number of witnesses had been heard it was resolved :

“ That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, resident within the said borough.”

Resolved : “ That Thomas Foley, esq., is duly elected.”

“ That John Dolphin, esq., is duly elected.”

Nov. 27, 1724. A petition of Walter Lord Chetwynd against the return of Francis Elde, esq., complaining of great partiality of the late mayor, the present mayor, and others in favour of the said Francis Elde.

A petition of several sons of burgesses and freemen within this borough in behalf of themselves and several other sons of burgesses and freemen to the same effect.

Jan. 13, 1725. Ordered : “ That leave be given for the last mentioned petition to be withdrawn.”

Jan. 23. A complaint being made to the House that there had been some undue practices, in relation to the compromising the election for this borough before the merits of the election were heard,

Ordered: "That Thomas Nicholls, the mayor, and eleven others named, do attend the House.

Feb. 4. The House proceeded to take into consideration the matter of complaint made 23rd Jan., on which several witnesses were called.

Resolved: "That it appears to this House that divers indirect and corrupt practices have been used in order to compromise the election for this borough before the same was heard before the Committee of Privileges.

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, "That it appeared to this House, that Francis Elde, esq., a member of this House, has been guilty of the said indirect and corrupt practices, highly reflecting upon the honour and justice of Parliament.

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, "That the said Francis Elde, esq., be for this said offence expelled this House."

Upon the question as to the right of election it was resolved:

"That it is the opinion of the committee that persons, made burgesses of this borough since the death of John Dolphin, esq., late member of Parliament for this borough, not being sons of burgesses, or not having served seven years' apprenticeship within the said borough, had not a right to vote in the late election of a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

The counsel for the sitting member hereupon admitted the petitioner's majority.

Resolved: "That Francis Elde, esq., was not duly elected."

Resolved: "That the Right Hon. Walter Lord Viscount Chetwynd is duly elected."

Jan. 23, 1735. Thomas Parker, esq., petitioned; the committee discharged from proceedings on his petition; renewed second sessions, and again discharged from proceedings thereon; renewed the third sessions.

No determination.

Nov. 25, 1762. Some of the burgesses petitioned against Mr. Crewe's election.

Dec. 10, 1806. A petition from the electors against the return of the Hon. Edward Monckton, and R. M. Phillips, esq.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, and twenty common-council men.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Nov. 1722. In the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, resident within the borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This town acknowledges no patron; but how far it may stand clear of corruption, we do not take upon us to determine. As there has been no public accusation of that crime before the House of Commons, or any other tribunal, it is far from our purpose to step out of our way to explore its recesses. We confine ourselves to acts of notoriety, and such as have provoked the interposition of the legislature, or incurred the chastisement of

national justice. The electors have had the honour of giving a seat in six Parliaments to one of the most shining ornaments of the British senate, who possesses those genuine principles of liberty which have ever distinguished his great political leader, Mr. Fox, and which were never displayed to greater advantage, than when his eloquence dispelled the cloud of prejudice, which was artfully and malignantly intended to envelope the lustre of the French Revolution. The family of Lord Viscount Chetwynd, of Ingestre, in this county, had formerly a considerable interest in this town; but that has ceased since the estates became the property of Earl Talbot, the present possessor.

The Right Hon. Richard Brinsley Sheridan having declined the representation of this town in 1806, was elected during the short Parliament for the city of Westminster, and in 1807 was returned for the borough of Ilchester. At the last general election, in 1812, Mr. Sheridan became a candidate for the seventh time to represent this place, but was unsuccessful, the numbers on the poll being,

For Ralph Benson, esq.....482

Thomas Wilson, esq.....347

Right Hon. R. B. Sheridan....255

NEWCASTLE UNDER LYNE.

NEWCASTLE UNDER LYNE is a borough and market-town in the parish of Stoke upon Trent, hundred of Pirehill, Stafford, situated on a branch of the Trent, 9 miles from Stone, and 149 from London; containing 977 houses, and 4,604 inhabitants, viz. 2,235 males, and 2,369 females, of whom 653 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. Its name is supposed to have been derived from a castle which stood near it at Chesterton under Lyne. In the neighbourhood are many coal pits, the coal of which is much softer than the Canal coal, and is cut out in slices, but consumes so fast that it is only fit for forges. There is a greater quantity of stone ware made near this place, than in any other part of England. The clothing trade also flourishes here, but the chief manufactory is that of hats, under an incorporated company of felt makers. Market on Monday, and a cattle market every Monday fortnight. Fairs, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, 6th of July, first Monday in September, and 6th of November.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was incorporated by King Charles II., but has sent members to Parliament from the 27th of Edward III.

PETITIONS, &c. March 1, 1592. Report:

“ That Thomas Fitzherbert, of Staffordshire, being outlawed upon a *capias ut lagatum*, after judgment, was elected burgess for this borough : and two hours after his election, before the indenture returned, the sheriff arrested him upon the *capias ut lagatum*, and he was detained in execution. Sent to this House to have a writ from the same to be enlarged, to have the privilege in this case to be grantable. Upon this, debates arose ; and it was at length resolved :

“ That Mr. Fitzherbert was not entitled to the privilege of this House.

April 9, 1624. Reported from the Committee of Privileges : “ That the mayor, aldermen, and two bailiffs, used to return. Incorporated by a new name : that the mayor, two bailiffs, and chief burgesses should elect : Lucy 26, Sir Edward Vere 16, Keeling 9.

Resolved : “ That this late constitution alters not the former custom ; and that Mr. Richard Lucy was well chosen ; and that the election was void for Sir Edward Vere and Mr. Keeling ; and that a new writ should go out for the election of a new burgess.

May 4, 1675. A petition of Sir John Bowyer, bart., against the return of Leveson Gower, esq.

No report.

May 23, 1685. A petition of Sir Thomas Bel-
lot, bart., and William Leveson Gower, esq.,
against the return of Edward Mainwaring and Wil-
liam Sneyd, jun. esq.

No report.

Dec. 21, 1699. A petition of John Lawton,

esq., against the return of Mr. Cotton, complaining of bribery and other illegal proceedings.

Feb. 28. Ordered: "Mr. Lawton have leave to withdraw his petition."

Dec. 15, 1703. A petition of Sir Thomas Bellot, bart., against the return of John Crew Offley, esq., complaining of bribery, treating, and other undue proceedings.

Feb. 1, 1704. Mr. Bromley reported the matter of the said election: "That it was agreed, the right of election was in the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses. That the sons of freemen born while their fathers were resident within the borough, and those who have served their apprenticeships, demanding to be made free within a year after their apprenticeships expired, have a right to their freedom. That it was also agreed that the burgesses living out of the borough one year and one day have no right to their freedoms."

Here followed a debate as to bribery, treating, &c.; when, upon the whole, the committee resolved:

"That John Crew Offley, esq., is not duly elected."

"That Sir Thomas Bellot, bart., is not duly elected."

"That the last election for the said borough is a void election."

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of Crew Offley, esq., and John Lawton, esq., against the return of Sir Thomas Bellot and Rowland Cotton, esq., complaining of bribery, treating, and other illegal practices.

Feb. 27, 1706. Mr. Compton reported, That the right of election was agreed to be in the mayor, bailiffs, burgesses, and freemen resident; John Clowes, called, who said, that one Richard Rhodes offered him nine guineas and a half to vote for the sitting members, and Richard Welsh gave him five shillings to drink their healths; that Bourne offered him five pounds for 2lb. of fish; and Mr. Burslem, the receiver-general, offered him ten pounds for the same purpose, but he said he would not trust, and that next day Mr. Welch brought him three pounds in part of the ten, which he received; but not being satisfied, Welsh told him Mr. Burslem was sufficient to answer the remainder.

That several of the sitting members' voters were treated at Bourne's, Welsh's, and other places, at several times, and the said treating was carried on till within three days of the election.

Eccles said, his brother Williams gave him five pounds to vote for Mr. Cotton; and Machell promised him forty shillings to be for Sir Thomas Bellot.

Thomas Clowes said, one Lilly gave Bagnot and Biddle three pounds each to vote for sitting members, and Lilly owned he had six guineas of them. Lilly likewise threatened several, who owed him money, to send them to gaol if they did not vote for Sir Thomas Bellot and Mr. Cotton.

Brougham said, Welsh gave him fifty shillings to vote for sitting members.

Barker said, he received twenty-two shillings

and sixpence of one Holland, by Barslem's directions; but he voted for the petitioners.—He gave evidence also of about thirty and their wives, who were treated, at several places, within a week of the election, and some but three days before the election.

Dudley said, Sir Thomas Bellot sent him ten pounds by John Richards and Rhodes, to lend to one Hall for his vote for Sir Thomas Bellot and Mr. Cotton: but Hall refusing it on the terms offered, Sir Thomas Bellot told him to keep it himself. He voted for Sir Thomas Bellot and Mr. Offley; and said, since Michaelmas he had been sued for the money.

The counsel for sitting members, to invalidate the petitioners' evidence, called Owlton, who said Dudley offered him an hundred pounds, or fifty pounds, for seven years without interest, if he would give evidence for the petitioners, and shewed him a letter from Mr. Offley, and some farthings, and said he was to have as many guineas to go up to be a witness.

Dudley denied the charge.

Deane said, Mr. William Lawton gave him thirty shillings for voting for Mr. Lawton and Mr. Offley.

Kniveton said, he was at Mr. Offley's with others, and Mr. Offley took one Cooke aside, and put money into his hand; and they were treated with wine; and said he treated at several houses for Mr. Offley, within five or six days of the election, to the amount of eight pounds, and named

twelve persons whom he had treated ; and that Mr. John Offley's steward paid him five pounds.

Unwin said, Mr. John Lawton gave him five shillings, and also had three pounds five shillings of Mr. Hatrell, to vote for the petitioners.

Upon the whole the committee

Resolved : " That Sir Thomas Bellot, bart., is not duly elected."

" That Rowland Cotton, esq., is not duly elected."

" That Crew Offley, esq., is duly elected."

" That John Lawton, esq., is duly elected."

Resolved : " That Mr. William Burslem, receiver-general of the county of Stafford, is guilty of bribery, in endeavouring to procure the said Sir Thomas Bellot and Rowland Cotton to be elected."

Resolved : " That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, that she will be pleased to discharge the said Mr. William Burslem from the said employment of receiver-general.

Nov. 24, 1708. A petition of Crew Offley and John Lawton, esqrs., against the return of Sir Thomas Bellot, bart., and Rowland Cotton, esq., complaining of bribery, treating, and other illegal practices by themselves, Mr. William Burslem, and others, their agents.

Feb. 1. After the case was heard, it was resolved :

" That Sir Thomas Bellot, deceased, was not duly elected."

" That Rowland Cotton is not duly elected."

" That Crew Offley is duly elected."

" That John Lawton, esq., is duly elected."

Resolved: "That it appears to this House, that Mr. William Burslem is guilty of bribery and indirect practices, in order to procure votes for Sir Thomas Bellot and Rowland Cotton, at the election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough."

Ordered: "That the said Mr. William Burslem be, for his said offence, taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House."

March 5, 1713. A petition of Crew Offley, esq., against the return of William Burslem, esq.

No report.

March 28, 1715. A petition of Sir Bryan Broughton, bart., and Crew Offley, esq., against the return of Henry Vernon, and Rowland Cotton, esqrs., complaining of bribery, and other illegal practices and partiality of John Fenton, mayor.

Upon the case being heard, it was resolved:

"That Rowland Cotton, esq., is not duly elected."

"That Henry Vernon, esq., is not duly elected."

"That Sir Bryan Broughton, bart., is duly elected."

"That Crew Offley, esq., is duly elected."

Dec. 7, 1724. A petition of William Corbett, esq., against the return of Sir Walter Wagstaff Bagott, complaining of bribery and other illegal practices, by Sir Walter and his agents, and prevailing upon Thomas Fenton, the mayor and returning officer, to use partiality.

No report.

Nov. 25, 1790. Thomas Fletcher and Clement Kennesley, esq., petitioned.

The committee who tried this election found the sitting members duly elected.

Oliver Beckett, esq., and some electors in his Peckwell, vol. i. p. 489-494. interest, petitioned against the return of Edward Wilbraham Bootle, esq., and Sir Robert Lawley, bart., December 2d and 7th, 1802. A committee to try this case was appointed May 27, 1803. Both the petitions contained, among other things, a claim in favour of Mr. Beckett to the majority of legal votes; and an allegation of bribery and treating against the sitting members, and against several electors in their interest. The committee having determined that the production of the poll was necessary, the counsel for the petitioning electors applied for an adjournment of two days. It was resolved not to adjourn; and on the 30th of May the sitting members were declared duly elected, and the petitions not frivolous nor vexatious. The chairman having pronounced the resolutions of the committee, was asked by the counsel for the sitting members, whether it was not usual, in point of form, for the committee to determine that the defence was not frivolous nor vexatious? The chairman replied, that such had been the usual practice, but that of late it had been discontinued; and that the opinion of the Speaker, and of the members of the House was, that it was quite unnecessary and superfluous.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and 24 common-councilmen.

The corporation has a court for holding pleas for any sum under twenty pounds.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 21, 1792. In the Freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle under Line.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—664.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Marquis of Stafford.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The right of election in this borough has been attended with that singularity which distinguishes the absurdity and folly of the present deranged system of partial representation.

This right has three times been the subject of parliamentary investigation; viz. in 1624, 1705, and, lastly, in 1792; the first determination was in favour of ancient custom, which was that of the freemen residents, who did not forfeit their claim till a year and a day after they had left the town; the second and last have been confined to the question of residence for the year and day that they had actually ceased to reside, which in both cases was decided against this ridiculous claim.

In the trial of the petition of Thomas Fletcher, esq., and Clement Kynnersley, esq., against Sir Archibald Macdonald and the Hon. John Leveson Gower, the sitting members, it appeared in evidence, that a great part of this borough was the property of the Marquis of Stafford, whose influence directs the choice of the electors; and that it is very customary for the burgesses, who are the

electors, to live ten, fifteen, and twenty years, in their respective houses, *without paying any rent*, and that the then members were the brother and son-in-law of that nobleman!!

Upon the trial of the above petition, the counsel for the petitioners stated the right of election to be in the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses or freemen, whose place of residence, at the time of their giving their votes, was in the said borough; or who, at such time, have no place of residence elsewhere, and who have never been absent from the borough for the space of a year and a day without interruption since they were admitted to the freedom thereof, or whose families (if they were masters of families,) have not been absent for the space of time aforesaid without interruption, after the time of the admission of such burgesses or freemen, having families, to the freedom of the said borough.

The counsel for the sitting members stated the right of election to be in the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle, and not receiving alms or church-bread; and that persons living a year and a day out of the borough lost their freedom.

The committee determined, that neither of the statements delivered in by the petitioners, or sitting members, were the specific right of voting for this borough, but that the right was, "In the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle under Line."

At the general election in 1812, Sir John Fletcher Fenton Boughy, bart., was elected for this bo-

rough in opposition to their patron, the Marquis of Stafford; and in 1815, Sir John Chatwode, bart., of Oakley, in this county, was chosen in opposition to Mr. Wilmot, son of Sir Robert Wilmot of Derbyshire, who was nominated and supported by the patron. It is now doubtful whether the Marquis of Stafford will be able to regain his influence in this place.

TAMWORTH.

TAMWORTH, a borough, market-town, and parish, situated partly in Staffordshire and partly in Warwickshire, at the conflux of the rivers Tame and Anker, 117 miles from London; the western part, in Warwickshire, contains 326 houses and 1,663 inhabitants; and the eastern part, with the church, in Staffordshire, contains 222 houses and 1,123 inhabitants. This town has a considerable manufacture of cottons, and is noted for good ale. The market is on Tuesday, and its fairs are, 4th May, 26th July, and 24th October.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough never sent members to Parliament until the 5th of Queen Elizabeth.

Jan. 22, 1562. For that burgesses be returned of divers boroughs, not lately returned in the Chancery, viz. the boroughs of Tregoney, St. Jermynes, and Maws, in Cornwall; the borough of Minehead, in Somersetshire; the borough of Tamworth,

in Staffordshire, &c.: Mr. Speaker declared to the House, that the lord steward agreed they should resort unto the House, and with convenient speed, to shew their letters patent why they be returned into the Parliament.—But nothing further appears.

PETITIONS, &c. March 26, 1670. Sergeant Charleton reports, touching the election for this borough between Lord Clifford and Mr. Ferrers, that the question was, Whether the right of election be in the bailiffs and 24 capital burgesses, or in the populacy and burgesses at large? and that the opinion of the committee was, That the right of election was in the bailiffs and 24 capital burgesses, and not in the populacy; and that Lord Clifford had the majority of voices of the bailiffs and capital burgesses; and that therefore the committee resolved:

“That Mr. Ferrers is not duly elected.”

“That Lord Clifford is duly elected.”

March 24, 1680. A petition of John Turton, esq.

No report.

March 24, 1689. A petition of Thomas Guy against the return of Sir Henry Gough.

No report.

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of Sir Henry Gough, knt., against the return of John Chetwynd and Thomas Guy, esqrs.

March 17, 1699. Sir Rowland Gwyn reported, The first matter in contest was the right of election.—The petitioner's counsel insisted, it was in all such as have freeholds, or pay scot and lot

within the borough. The counsel for Mr. Chetwynd and Mr. Guy denied that the freeholders had any right.

Whereupon the committee resolved :

“ That the right of election of burgesses to serve in this Parliament for this borough is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and in such persons who have freeholds within the said borough, whether resident or not.

Hereupon much debate, and a great number of witnesses were heard, when, at length, the petitioner admitted Mr. Guy to be elected : and the committee resolved :

“ That Thomas Guy, esq. is duly elected.”

“ That John Chetwynd, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That Sir Henry Gough, knt., is duly elected.”

Dec. 1, 1702. The House being informed, that there was a new writ issued to the sheriff of the county of Stafford only for the election of a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough ; whereas the borough is also within the county of Warwick—

Ordered : “ That the clerk of the crown do make out a supersedeas to the writ lately made out, and directed to the sheriff of the county of Stafford only ; and that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the clerk of the crown, to make out a new writ, directed to the sheriff of the county of Warwick, and another to the sheriff of the county of Stafford, for the electing a burgess to serve in this present Parliament for this borough.

Nov. 3, 1705. A petition of Richard Swynfen, esq., against the return of Joseph Girdler, esq., sergeant at law.

No report.

Jan. 22, 1722. Richard Swynfen and John Jarvis, esqrs., having petitioned, the former was found duly elected, and the sitting member, Samuel Bracebridge, esq., not duly elected; one of the parties contended, that the right of election was in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms; the other insisted that it was in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and in such freeholders who have freeholds in the borough, whether resident in the borough or not, agreeable to the resolution of the House, March 17, 1698-9. It appears, by the state of the question between the parties, and by the evidence as set forth in the report entered in the Journals, that the right of the inhabitants paying scot and lot was not contested, and that the only matter in issue was the right of the freeholders.

Glenbervie,
vol. iii., p.
79.

20 Journ.
p. 100.

In 1741, John Floyer, esq., was found not duly elected, and his seat was taken by Charles Cotes, esq.

In 1761, Simon Luttrell and William Abney, esqrs., petitioned; and after the House had made some progress in the matter, on the 4th of February, 1762, they requested leave to withdraw their petition, which the House complied with.

CORPORATION

Consists of two bailiffs, a recorder, a high steward, and 24 principal burgesses.

The corporation have power to keep a three week's court of record, and a court-leet twice a year ; they have also a jail and a common seal.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 17, 1698. Is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and in such persons as have freeholds within the said borough, whether resident in the said borough or not.

Jan. 23, 1722. Is in the inhabitants being householders, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 500.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the two Bailiffs.

PROPRIETORS—Marquis Townshend and Sir Robert Peel, bart.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough is in the singular situation of standing in two counties, and is divided by the river Thame. That half of the town which stands on the west side of that river is in Staffordshire, and belongs, with the castle, to Marquis Townshend, into whose family it came by marriage with the Baroness Ferrers ; and the other half, standing in Warwickshire, was the property of the Marquis of Bath, and by him sold to Sir Robert Peele, bart., who has established an extensive manufactory here.

The Marquis Townshend nominates one member, and Sir Robert Peele another.

The writs are issued to the sheriffs of Stafford-

shire and Warwickshire, each of whom directs his precept to the bailiff of that part of the town standing within his bailiwick.

The corporation, consisting of two bailiffs and 24 principal burgesses, has one bailiff and 12 burgesses for each half of the borough.

This place appears to have been so completely divided in its political rights, on purpose to suit two patrons, as that the trick and intrigue so commonly practised in boroughs divided between two parties are here prevented.

The Marquis Townshend has lately sold his moiety of this borough, together with the estate annexed to it, to Mr. Robins the auctioneer, of Covent Garden, for one hundred and thirty-two thousand pounds; but whether Mr. Robins intends to retain it, and represent his new purchase in Parliament, or to re-sell it, we cannot ascertain.

SUFFOLK.

SUFFOLK, a maritime county of England, is bounded on the north by Norfolk, on the east by the German Ocean, on the south by Essex, from which it is divided by the river Stour, and on the west by Cambridge. Its diameter from north to south is about 30 miles, and from east to west 58; the whole area containing 1,566 square statute miles, equal to 1,002,240 acres, having 600,000 in pasturage, and 250,000 arable. It is divided into 21 hundreds, viz. Babergh, Blackburn, Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Carlford, Colnies, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Lackford, Loes, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomsgate, Resbridge, Samford, Stow, Thingoe, Thedwestry, Thredling, Wangford, and Wilford. It has seven boroughs; Aldborough, Dunwich, Eye, Ipswich, Orford, Sudbury, and St. Edmund's Bury; and 21 market-towns, viz. Beccles, Bildeston, Brandon, Botesdale, Bungay, Clare, Debenham, Framlingham, Hadley, Haverhill, Ixworth, Lavenham, Lowestoff, Mendlesham, Mildenhall, Needham, Neyland, Saxmundham, Southwold, Stow Market, and Woodbridge; the whole containing 32,253 houses and 210,431 inhabitants, viz. 101,091 males and 109,340 females, of whom 34,065 were employed in trade, &c., and 55,744 in agriculture. The amount of money levied for the maintenance of the poor in 1803, was 149,646*l.*, being at the rate of 4*s.* 10½*d.* in the pound. The assessment under the property-tax act, in 1806,

was 1,751,763 $\frac{1}{2}$. The average scale of mortality for ten years appears to have been as 1 to 54 of the existing population. The sea-shore is chiefly composed of loamy cliffs, continually falling down, and creating great changes on the coast, and even whole towns and villages have been washed away by the sea.

Suffolk was formerly distinguished for its trade and manufactures, but these have long been on the decline; some thin stuffs are still made here, such as says and bunting for naval colours and crapes. It is now included in the Norfolk circuit, the province of Canterbury, and the diocese of Norwich; and contains 575 parishes, and sends 16 members to the Imperial Parliament, two for each borough, and two for the county.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county returned members to Parliament in the 22d of Edward I., and has continued to do so ever since.

PETITIONS, &c. March 1, 1672. A petition of Sir Samuel Barnardiston, bart., complaining of an undue carriage in the sheriff of this county, in the election of a knight to serve for this county; but there being no return yet made,

Ordered: "That the sheriff of this county do make his return of the election for this county."

—, 4. A petition of Lord Huntingtower, complaining of a double return made by the sheriff of the county in wrong of the petitioner, who was duly elected, and ought to have been singly returned.

Resolved: "That it be referred to the committee."

A petition in behalf of Sir Samuel Barnardiston, bart., complaining of a double return, &c.

Resolved: "That it be referred to the committee."

Oct. 31, 1673. A petition of Sir Lionel Talmach, bart., complaining of a double return, &c.

Ordered: "That it be referred to a committee."

Jan. 7, 1674. A petition of Sir Samuel Barnardiston, bart., complaining of a double return, &c.

Resolved: "That it be referred to the committee."

Feb. 19. Sir Thomas Meres reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections the state of the case and evidence on both sides, in the matter of the election for this county, and the votes of the committee, as followeth:

"That Sir Samuel Barnardiston, bart., is well elected."

"That the sheriff of the county do withdraw, and take off the file the return of Lord Huntingtower."

Jan. 26, 1688. A petition of Sir Samuel Barnardiston, bart., complaining of an undue election and return.

Ordered: "That it be referred to the committee."

April 1, 1690. A petition of Sir John Playters against the return of Sir Samuel Barnardiston.

Ordered: "That it be referred to the committee."

No report.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county possesses much independent spirit, which it never fails to exert when called forth into action. In the year 1784, the people, in consequence of the connexions of Sir T. C. Bunbury, bart., with the coalition formed by Lord North and Mr. Fox, proposed, as a candidate for their representation, Joshua Grigby, esq., with whose attachment to the cause of liberty in all its branches, and aversion to aristocratic influence, they were well acquainted; and their exertions in his favour were finally successful. At the election in 1790, Mr. Grigby declined the honour that was intended him, when Sir Gerrard Vanneck was thought the best substitute to supply the place of that gentleman. The success of the independent yeomanry would in this instance, as well as the former one, have been certain, but for the union of so many heterogeneous substances, as administration, opposition, and aristocracy. The junction of all these parties, and the interest arising from it, was hardly sufficient to overthrow and subdue the laudable efforts which were used against it, as appears by the poll, when the numbers were,

For Sir T. C. Bunbury 3065

Sir John Rous 2755

Sir Gerard Vanneck 2047

From that period to the present, the representation of this county has been compromised between the Whigs and Tories, each party nominating a member.

The noblemen residing in this county are, the Duke of Grafton, Marquis Cornwallis, Earl of Bristol, Earl of Dysart, Lord Rous, &c.

IPSWICH.

IPSWICH, the county town of Suffolk, is situated on the river Orwell, 18 miles from Colchester, 10 from Harwich, and 70 from London. It consists of 12 parishes, containing 1,934 houses, and 10,043 inhabitants, viz. 4,415 males and 5,628 females, of whom 1,669 were returned as employed in various trades and handicraft, and 292 in agriculture. This town is of great antiquity, and was formerly of more consequence and greater extent than at present, having had 21 parish churches. Here is a shire-hall, (in which the sessions are held,) a new and extensive county goal, a palace for the bishop of Norwich, a free-school, and a good library, with a work-house, or hospital, for lunatics, and where the idle and vagabonds are kept to hard labour. Ipswich was anciently celebrated for its extensive manufactures of broad cloth and sail cloth, but they have long since fallen to decay, and now flourish in the west of England. The chief trade of the town is, at present, in malting and corn. Great quantities of ship timber are sent from hence to the different dock-yards, especially to Chatham: and regular passage boats go to Harwich every tide, similar to those at Gravesend. This town has many rights and privileges peculiar to itself, and an admiralty jurisdiction extending on the Essex coast beyond Harwich, and on both sides the Suffolk coast. Here is a market on Tuesday and Thursday for meat, on Wednesday and Friday for fish,

and on Saturday for all kinds of provisions. Fairs 4th May, 25th July, and 25th September.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This was a borough at the time of the general survey, and had therein 538 burgesses, as appears by the entry in Little Domesday-book. They had a charter of free markets of William the Conqueror; and King John granted it greater privileges. It has had seventeen charters since that time.

PETITIONS, &c. Dec. 1, 1710. A petition of William Thompson of the Middle Temple, esq., against the return of Sir William Barker.

Mr. Freeman reported the matter as it appeared to the committee as follows:

The poll was,

For Sir William Barker.....258

The Petitioner.....235

That the petitioner's counsel alleged, this borough is a corporation by prescription, and to prove it, read a charter of confirmation of their privileges granted by King John to the burgesses of this borough.

For Sir William Barker it was alleged it was a borough by prescription.

The petitioner's counsel admitted the right to be in the Bailiffs and Freemen, but questioned whether the out-freemen by redemption, who were not resident at the time made free, had a right to vote.

The committee resolved,

“ That the right of election of burgesses to serve

in Parliament for this borough is in the Bailiffs, Portmen, Commonalty, and Freemen at large, not receiving alms.

That the petitioner's counsel admitted a majority for Sir William Barker.

And Sir William Barker's counsel called witnesses who proved several indirect practices in favour of the petitioner, by Mr. Gravenor, one of the bailiffs.

That the petitioner's counsel proved some offers made by the friends of Sir William Barker in order to gain votes, but without success; except Robert Scot who was made master of a vessel; and Miller was promised to be kept from being arrested, but was not.

The committee resolved, "That Sir William Barker, bart., is duly elected.

"That the petition of William Thompson, esq., is frivolous and vexatious."

The first resolution being read a second time, it was proposed to be amended, by leaving out the word "commonalty," and inserting "common-council" instead thereof: whereto the House agreed; and resolved to agree with the committee in the said resolution so amended, viz.

"That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough, is in the Bailiffs, Portmen, Common-council, and Freemen at large, not receiving alms."

The other resolutions being twice read, were agreed to by the House, and

Resolved, "That William Thompson, esq., do make satisfaction to Sir William Barker, for the

costs and expenses he has been put to, by reason of the said petition."

March 3, 1713. A petition of Richard Richardson, sergeant at law, and Orlando Bridgeman, esq., against the return of William Thompson and Wm. Churchill, esqrs., complaining amongst other things, of several freemen being illegally made who voted for the sitting members."

Which being proved, it was resolved, "That William Thomson is not duly elected."

Resolved, "That William Churchill, esq., is not duly elected."

Resolved, "That Richard Richardson, esq., sergeant at law, is duly elected."

Resolved, "That Orlando Bridgeman, esq., is duly elected."

In 1780, the petition of Charles Alexander Crickitt, esq., stated, that Mr. Cator, the sitting member, had, by himself or his agents, after the teste of the writ, been guilty of a most notorious and flagrant attempt to bribe the corporation of Ipswich to elect him, by offering a large sum of money to them for that purpose; that he had, in the same manner, been guilty of bribing the electors of the borough, by promises of presents, and by treating; that one of the returning officers was an avowed agent of Mr. Cator, and did, by his direction, corrupt the electors to vote for him; in consequence whereof, many of them did vote for him; that by these means Mr. Cator had procured an illegal majority of votes over the petitioner, who would otherwise have been elected and returned.

No objection was made to the election of Mr. Middleton. By the opening of the case it appeared, that the petitioner endeavoured to avoid the election of Mr. Cator, by proceeding upon all the charges in the petition; and accordingly evidence was produced upon all of them.

Upon the first point the following facts were given in evidence:

The electors of this borough are two bailiffs, ten portmen, twenty-four common-councilmen, and an indefinite number of freemen; they have been for a long time divided into two parties, distinguished by the names of *Blues* and *Yellows*; at the head of the former are the common-councilmen; the latter is headed by the portmen. The *Yellows* had been predominant at the late elections; Mr. Wollaston, one of the late members, had been supported by them, and being abroad at the time of the late election, his brother, the Rev. Dr. Wollaston, proposed him as a candidate upon that interest. Mr. Staunton, the other late member, declined this election. Mr. Middleton was supported by the *Blues*, on which interest he had failed in the last contest.

The last election happened on Saturday, the 3d of April: in the preceding week, the *Blues* had proposed to the *Yellows* to support Wollaston, if the *Yellows* would support Middleton, and thus settle their differences; but this was rejected by the *Yellows*, who then had hopes of carrying both members; and they persuaded Dr. Wollaston, against his own inclination, to join with Cator, whom they had invited to stand: about the same

time, the portmen, who were told by Dr. Wollaston that he would spend no money in the election, asked him to withdraw his brother ; which he refused. Cator was at this time a stranger to the borough. On the Monday before the election, Dr. Wollaston, by appointment, met Mr. Cator at the house of Mr. Cornwall, a banker in Ipswich, and partner in that business with the bailiff Spooner. Here these three held a conversation about the election : Cornwall, who had before been told by Dr. Wollaston, that he would not spend more than 300*l.* on the election, and had communicated this to Mr. Cator, in this conversation, said to Dr. Wollaston, “ he had estimated the “ expense at about 2000*l.* ; that Cator was willing “ to advance 1700*l.* of this sum, if Wollaston “ would answer for the remaining 300*l.*” This being agreed to by the latter, Cornwall said, “ if “ the expenses were to be paid at his bank, he “ should expect a deposit of the money before- “ hand ;” this was likewise agreed to, and then they went about the town on a joint canvas for Wollaston and Cator. On the same day Cator paid 1700*l.* into Cornwall’s banking-house ; on the next day, at Cator’s desire, the above agreement was put in writing and signed ; it is as follows :

“ Mr. Wollaston, by Dr. Wollaston, deposits “ 300*l.* in the hands of Messrs. Alexander, Corn- “ wall, and Spooner ; and John Cator having de- “ posited 1700*l.* in the same hands, for the purpose “ of paying the expenses already incurred, and “ which may be incurred, for their election ; and

“ it is agreed, if the expense is less than 2000*l.* all
“ the money remaining shall be returned to John
“ Cator ; and if the expenses exceed 2000*l.* all
“ above that sum is to be paid in equal portions
“ by Dr. Wollaston and John Cator. In witness
“ whereof, they have set their names this 30th
“ March, 1784.

“ FRED. WOLLASTON.

“ JOHN CATOR.”

N. B. “ If the expense does not amount to
“ 1200*l.* Dr. Wollaston is to have returned the
“ proportion of one to four.”

Dr. Wollaston in his evidence said, he had no knowledge of election matters, nor of the particular expenses, or the manner in which they were incurred, in an election at Ipswich ; he had heard that a great deal was incurred on account of the out-voters ; and being told by Cornwall, that the expenses of the former election had exceeded the above sum, he relied on his estimate, as he made it, without knowing how, in particular, the money was to be applied ; but he understood it was for necessary joint expenses of the election, and not to be used for any purposes in which both parties were not concerned ; and that no unlawful use would be made of it. Cornwall was to disburse the money, and to return the remainder, if any, with an account. He wished the transaction to have been kept secret, though not from any notion of its being wrong ; but found it was known to all his principal friends in the corporation.

In the course of the canvas, he perceived his brother's interest to have declined considerably,

and hereupon determined, after consulting one or two private friends, to withdraw his name, on being indemnified the expenses at that time incurred. On the Thursday before the election, at Cornwall's house, in the presence of Cator, Cornwall, Spooner, Notcote the town clerk, and one or two more of the corporation, he said, he feared his brother might fail, and asked them, "If Middleton should be at the head of the poll, whom they would desert, Cator or his brother?" To this question no answer was made; upon which he said to them, "I now see you would desert my brother and support Cator;" hereupon Notcote came forward and said, "What would our enemies say of us if we should not, as he pays so much more than you." No more was said on the subject. In the afternoon of that day, Dr. Wollaston offered to withdraw his brother, according to his first resolution, and Mr. Cator agreed to repay him, what he had laid out upon his canvas: as to the 300*l.* he had not paid it into the bank.

Mr. Cornwall in his evidence said, that he had known Mr. Cator before, and would have trusted him with any sum, but would not have given credit to the parties jointly; for which reason he desired a deposit, as he had before found difficulties in getting the money advanced; that he believed the 1700*l.* was intended for the common expenses of the election, jointly with the 300*l.* but that it was liable to such uses as Cator might think proper, and he might have drawn for it without defraying the expenses: on being asked "Where then was the security of the deposit?"

he said, it was so, notwithstanding, in his mind. Being asked if he did not know, before the meeting of Cator and Wollaston, that the former was to make a deposit? he said, he could not recollect this with certainty; he was not sure, but believed not. He delivered in an account current of his house with Cator for the 1700*l.* of which about 1100*l.* was spent, the rest was repaid to him on a draught of the 24th of May; the disbursement of the money was made under the direction of Spooner. Mr. Cornwall said, he himself was no corporator.

All the expenses were paid out of his fund.

In order to shew that the lawful expenses of the election, particularly the travelling charges of the out-voters, could not require such a sum as Mr. Cator placed in Cornwall's hands, the counsel for the petitioner gave in evidence the following account of the situation of the voters for him, which had been examined with the poll, and the distances proved:

List of the Out-voters for Cator, and of the distances of their residence from Ipswich.

	Miles.	Voters.
Resident at Harwich, distant ..	11 ..	37
Ditto, within	5 ..	8
Ditto, between	5 and 10 ..	13
Ditto	10 and 15 ..	12
Ditto	15 and 20 ..	12
Ditto	20 and 30 ..	10
Ditto	30 and 40 ..	5
Ditto	40 and 50 ..	4
Carried forward		101

	Brought forward	101
Ditto	50 and 60	1
Ditto (including London and its environs)	60 and 70	39
Ditto, between	70 and 80	17
	—	158
Voters for Cator resident at Ipswich		139
	—	
	Total	297

Upon the charge of corrupting the electors, the facts proved were as follow :

An extensive distribution of money was made, after the election, to many of the out-voters for loss of time, with the approbation of Mr. Cator, out of the sum in the bankers' hands ; thirteen voters, resident in London or its neighbourhood, who were examined before the committee, were paid three guineas each immediately after the election ; they had all their travelling expenses paid besides ; this sum was given without enquiry into their circumstances, or the profits of their several employments, which were various ; some being capable of earning five or seven shillings a day, and others two shillings ; they were absent from their business, some four days, some five ; to none of them was any direct expectation given of a reward for their votes ; two or three were told, when canvassed by Cator's agent, Prigg, whom he had employed to canvas and convey voters to Ipswich, that " they should be satisfied for loss of time." Some of them had voted at former elections, and had received a similar gratuity, and said they expected it at this. One man said to the committee,

“ he could not tell what the three guineas were for, unless for his vote.” One, when canvassed by Cator’s agent, bargained that his son should go and take up his freedom, and was afterwards paid five guineas by the same person, for himself and his son, though his son did not vote.

The greater number of these thirteen did not promise their votes to Cator before they went to Ipswich, though they travelled there at his expense. They voted for Middleton and Cator.

Five voters, resident at Harwich, likewise gave their evidence to the committee: these men in the same circumstances as the others from London, had in the same manner received a guinea and a half a-piece; and it appeared that the same sum was given to most of the Harwich voters. Harwich is eleven miles distant from Ipswich, and the passage by water (their usual way of going thither) costs sixpence: they were absent on Saturday and Sunday. To all these Cator was a stranger at the time of the election, and some of them came to Ipswich intending to vote for Wollaston.

It was admitted by the counsel on both sides, that Middleton and Cator had no joint expenses in the election. And it was either proved or admitted, that all the London voters generally received three guineas a-piece after the election, out of the money deposited.

Upon the charge against Spooner, these facts appeared in evidence:

That he had a very extensive influence in Ipswich; that he canvassed the town for Wollaston and Cator, and afterwards for Cator singly; wrote

letters soliciting votes for him, and in particular to Prigg, before mentioned, in London, to canvas for him and Wollaston, whose bills of expenses he paid, and to whom he gave or sent money to pay some of the London voters the three guineas; he likewise told Prigg that he had given one Burney one hundred and fifty guineas for paying expenses. In Cator's presence he sent an agent to London, in order to accompany the freemen to Ipswich, and afterwards paid him for his trouble. He gave orders at two inns for entertaining some of the London voters, and afterwards paid the bills. He paid some of the Harwich voters a guinea and a half for loss of time; in Cator's presence he told one who had voted, that he should have three guineas when he came to London; and paid several bills of the election expenses.

Being examined himself, he said he had done every thing in the election which one friend does for another; had voted for Cator, and, as a banker, paid his draughts for the expenses.

The following evidence was given of one particular charge of bribery by Spooner.

One Reynolds, who had voted in the election in 1780, for Staunton and Wollaston, had been employed at the same time in some election business for that party, upon whom he now had a demand of 4*l.* 16*s.* for expenses then incurred, and not paid. He met Spooner at Ipswich at this last election, and asked him, why this demand had not been paid according to his (Spooner's) promise? Spooner told him "it should be settled; that Wollaston had declined, Cator was in his in-

“terest :” whereupon he went to the poll and voted for Cator and Middleton. Reynolds said in his evidence he should not have voted for the Yellows if he had not been made easy on this demand. This man went to Ipswich on the part of Middleton, and was paid three guineas by his agent after the election.

Upon these facts, the counsel for the petitioner agreed, That the election of Mr. Cator had been obtained by corrupt influence, and must be declared void.

June 18. The committee determined, “That
“neither the sitting member nor the petitioner
“were duly elected, and that the last election was
“void as to Mr. Cator.”

A new writ was accordingly issued, and Mr. Crickitt was unanimously elected.

At the general election in 1790, Mr. Middleton and Mr. Crickitt were opposed by Sir John Hadley D'Oyley and Major Rochfort. At the close of the poll the numbers were,

For Sir John Hadley D'Oyley	323
C. A. Crickitt, esq.	312
William Middleton, esq. ..	299
Major Rochfort	243

By the event of this poll, the borough lost, in Mr. Middleton, a representative, whose independence was an ornament to the British senate.

In 1806, the Hon. Robert Stopford and Richard Wilson, esq., were elected in opposition to Mr. Crickitt.

CORPORATION

By charter of Charles the Second, it is governed by two bailiffs, a recorder, ten portmen, and twenty-four common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Feb. 3, 1710. Is in the Bailiffs, Portmen, Common-council men, and Freemen at large, not receiving alms.

March 31, 1714. Portmen are an essential constituent part of the great court for making freemen of the said borough ; without some of which portmen being present, the said court cannot be held.

April 1, 1714. A motion being made, and the question being put, that the persons voted freemen at the pretended great courts held in the corporation of Ipswich, June 15, Aug. 7, Sept. 25, and 28, 1711, without any legal portmen then present, were duly made, and have a right to vote for members to serve in Parliament for the borough of Ipswich ; it passed in the negative.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—623.

RETURNING OFFICER—the two Bailiffs.

PATRON—Charles Alexander Crickitt, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The influence prevailing in this town is that which has been introduced by corruption. The price of votes has risen with the spirit of contention between the candidates, and the last contest in 1806 was so expensive as to prevent any other

since that period. The interest of Mr. Crickitt has been introduced by the establishment of a bank, and having the government patronage. When the ministry were changed in 1806, the political barometer at Ipswich changed with it, and Mr. Wilson of Lincoln's-inn-fields, and the Hon. Mr. Stopford were chosen. Upon the present ministers coming again into place in 1807, Mr. Crickitt became once more the favourite, and the dismissed member was restored with the dismissed ministers. We scarcely need add that Mr. Crickitt's patronage is not deemed very secure.

If the right of election here was in the *resident* householders, the number of voters would be nearly two thousand, at present that right is limited to about a third of that number including three hundred *non-resident freemen*.

BURY ST. EDMUND'S.

BURY ST. EDMUND'S is a borough and market-town, consisting of two parishes, in the hundred of Thingoe, Suffolk, ten miles from Newmarket, and 71 from London by Chelmsford; containing 1,360 houses, and 7,655 inhabitants, of whom 4,198 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. The county assizes are held in this town. It has also a free grammar-school, founded by Edward VI. and a handsome marketplace for fish and provisions, built at the expense of the Earl of Bristol. Market days on Wednesday and Saturday, the former chiefly for corn, the

latter for fish, flesh, &c. Fairs, Easter Tuesday, October 2, and December 1; the last is very great for cattle.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough had a precept sent to it to return burgesses to Parliament, as Mr. Prynne writes, 30th Edward I. After this, no precepts were sent, nor returns made till the 4th James I., who renewed and granted them this right as Doctor Willis writes; from which time it has constantly returned.

PETITIONS, &c. Feb. 9, 1625. Sir Benjamin Rudyard moveth, Mr. Emanuel Gifford, returned a member of this House, and now in prison, upon execution, may be sent for.

Feb. 18. Mr. Speaker discharged Mr. Gifford, and wished him to take his oath, and then to take his place in the House.

May 3, 1660. Mr. Tierney reported double return, Mr. Thomas Chaplyn and Mr. Clark by one indenture, and Sir Henry Crofts and Sir John Duncombe, knt., by another indenture.

That Sir Henry Crofts and Sir John Duncombe, knt., are duly elected and ought to sit: whereto the House agreed; and

Ordered, "That the indenture, signed by the inhabitants of this borough, whereby the said Mr. Chaplyn and Mr. Clark are returned, be withdrawn, and taken off the file; and that the alderman of the said borough, with the clerk of the crown, be sent for, to attend for the amending the return.

March 26, 1679. A petition of Sir Thomas Cullum, bart., and John Rotherham, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Thomas Harvey, knt., and Thomas Germyn, esq.

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of John Rotherham was read.

Dec. 24. Sir Richard Corbet reported from the said committee, that they, having taken the matter of the said election into consideration, had resolved,

“ That Sir Thos. Harvey, knt., is duly elected.”

“ That Thomas Germyn, esq., is duly elected.”

March 25, 1690. A petition of Sir John Mordaunt and John Wildman, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Robert Davers and Henry Goldwell, esq.

Oct. 18. Another petition of Sir John Morden, bart., and John Wildman, esq.

No report.

March 3, 1713. A petition of Jermyn Davers and Gilbert Affleck, esqrs., complaining of an undue return of Car Harvey, esq., and Aubrie Porter, esq.

A petition of the freemen and inhabitants of this borough.

April 27, 1714. Sir Gilbert Dolben reported from the said committee, that the matter of the said election was as follows:

“ That the question was touching the right of election; that the sitting members are elected by the select numbers, the petitioners by the populace.”

For the petitioners it was alleged, that this borough is a borough and corporation by prescription, by the name of alderman and burgesses; and that the right of election is in the alderman and burgesses resident in the borough, paying scot and lot.

This was denied by the sitting members' counsel, who alleged the right of election is in the alderman, 12 capital burgesses, and 24 burgesses of the common council, to whom the privilege was originally granted by charter, 12 Jac. I.

Whereupon, after much debate, the committee resolved,

“That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the alderman, 12 capital burgesses and 24 burgesses of the common council of the said borough.”

“That the petitioners' counsel admitted the sitting members to be duly elected, upon the foot of this resolution.”

“That the Hon. Carr Harvey, esq., is duly elected.”

“That Aubrie Porter, esq., is duly elected.”

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of Carr Harvey, esq., complaining of an undue return of James Reynolds, sergeant at law, and Jermyn Davers, esq., by bribery and many other illegal practices, and that the said Mr. Davers was not qualified.

No report.

CORPORATION

Consists of an alderman, recorder, 12 capital burgesses, and 24 common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in the Alderman, Burgesses, and Common-councilmen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—37.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Alderman.

PATRONS—Duke of Grafton and Earl of Bristol.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

Although this town is the second in the county, both in extent, antiquity, and number of inhabitants, yet the right of voting, as in the cities of Bath, Winchester, and Salisbury, and in the towns of Andover, Banbury, Tiverton, and Dartmouth, is confined to the corporation only. That the privilege of returning the members should be placed in this small body of men, to the exclusion of the rest of the inhabitants, is as unjust as it is destructive of that adequate representation, which the constitution supposes the people to possess.

The corporation are under the influence of the Duke of Grafton and the Earl of Bristol, who have each returned a member ever since the year 1747, previous to which time it had been under the sole patronage of the Earls of Bristol.

Our observation upon this borough applies to every one where the right of election has been confined by charter, or by resolution of a committee of the House of Commons, to a corporation, or any other select description of individuals: that it is an usurpation of the common right of the people established by the constitution, and first limited in counties by statute 8 of Henry VI., and in bo-

roughs by special resolutions, commencing their operations not more than two centuries ago, and which is proved by the statutes at large, and the Journals of Parliament, and amply demonstrated in the first volume of this work.

The number of householders deprived of the right of voting in this town is upwards of thirteen hundred.

SADBURY.

SADBURY, a borough and market-town, consisting of three parishes, in the hundred of Babergh, Suffolk, situated on the river Stour, 14 miles from Bury St. Edmund's, and 56 from London; containing 594 houses and 3,283 inhabitants, of whom 625 were employed in trade and manufactures. It is said to have been one of the first towns in which the woollen manufactory was introduced, but it is now gone to decay. Market on Saturday. Fairs, 12th March and 10th July.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This ancient borough and mayor-town was incorporated by Queen Mary, and began to return members to Parliament *anno* 1st Eliz., which privilege it has ever since retained.

Dec. 8, 1640. Mr. Maynard reported, that a question arose between Mr. Brampton Gurdon, who pretended he was chosen, though not returned, and Sir Robert Crane, who was returned.

Witnesses heard, and committee of opinion,
“That Sir Robert Crane is duly elected.”

May 3, 1660. Mr. Turner reported a double return; that Mr. Joseph Brond and Mr. John Gurdon are returned by one indenture and Robert Cordell, esq., by another.

— 18. That upon examination it appeared that John Gurdon and Joseph Brond, esqrs., being returned by the proper officer are duly elected, and that the other indenture, whereby Robert Cordell, esq., is returned, be withdrawn.

May 17, 1661. Sergeant Carlton reported, touching a double return for this borough, that Isaac Appleton and Thomas Walgrave, esqrs., were returned by one indenture, and Sir Robert Cordell and Sir Thomas Barnardiston, knts., by another.

The opinion of the committee, “That Mr. Appleton and Mr. Walgrave, returned by the proper officer, ought to sit until the merits of the case be determined.”

Feb. 27, 1698. A petition of John Catesby and William Cook, gentlemen, and others, free burgesses of this borough, against the return of Mr. Gurdon, complaining of bribery and other undue practices.

No report.

Feb. 14, 1700. A petition of several freemen of this borough, on behalf of themselves and other freemen of the said borough, complaining of an undue return, and partiality of the mayor in favour of Jervois Elwes and Sir John Cordell, in prejudice to John Little, esq.

No report.

Oct. 24, 1702. A petition of George Dashwood, esq., complaining of bribery and an undue return of Joseph Haskenstyles, esq., also partiality of the mayor and town-clerk.

Jan. 19, 1703. Mr. Bromley reported, that the right of election was agreed to be in the freemen not receiving alms.

Hereupon a question arose as to the admission of those to their freedom who had a right to demand it.

Evidence heard, and the committee resolved,

“That the sons of freemen born after their fathers were made free; and those that have served an apprenticeship in this borough have a right to vote in the election of members for this borough, without any admission in form to their freedom, or taking the oath of freemen.”

As to the partiality of the mayor and town-clerk, bribery and other ill practices,

Mr. Hull said the mayor offered great rudeness to the petitioner.

Belgrave said, he offered himself four times to poll for the petitioner singly, and the mayor struck him, and bid the constable and sergeant carry him to gaol.

Robert Soul said, he was allowed by the mayor as an inspector for Mr. Dashwood; yet the mayor abused him, and pulled him by the hair, because he objected to John Smith's polling, who was not free.

Fletcher said, that Thomas Foster offered to vote two or three times; and insisting on his right, the mayor said in the court publicly, right or

wrong, he should not poll; and Sir John Cordell swore he should not poll.

Bowtell said he offered to poll singly for the petitioner, and was struck and abused in court.

Rook said, that Thomas Hull desired his and Mr. Pink's votes, and put two five-shilling pieces into his hand, which he refusing, he took them from him, and put them into Pink's hand, who promised to vote for the sitting members.

Langden said Sir John Cordell gave him 2*s.* 6*d.*, and promised him 2*s.* 6*d.* to make interest with his father—saw Woodward receive 2*s.* 6*d.*, and he told him he had another, and should have a breakfast—and Musketts and Woods told him they had received each 2*s.* 6*d.*, part of 40*s.*, which was to be distributed.

Sommersett said he received 20*s.*

Robert Golding said the same; also that Woodward and Webb had 20*s.* each, and 12 freemen had 5*s.* each, at Sir John Cordell's.

Jones said, Smith went round the town, and offered 5*s.* each to two or three hundred freemen.

That for Mr. Haskenstyles the counsel recriminated; and called Mr. Penn, who said that Mr. Dashwood and Mr. Cole asked his vote, and that Mr. Dashwood said, if they would choose him, he would give 200*l.* towards making the river navigable, and 200*l.* more for a workhouse.

Paris said his brother told him the petitioner had given him a bill for 200*l.*, drawn upon Mr. Hayes, payable within ten days; and the money was to be kept till the election was over, and then applied towards making the river navigable.

After several others were heard, the committee resolved :

“ That Joseph Haskenstyles, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That George Dashwood, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That the election of Joseph Haskenstyles, esq., is a void election.”

“ That it appears to the House, that Benjamin Castor, late mayor of this borough, was, at the last election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough, guilty of great violence, and many indirect practices, contrary to the rights and privileges of this House.”

Ordered: “ That the said Benjamin Castor be, for the said offence, taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House.”

Feb. 22. A petition of George Dashwood, esq., complaining of an undue return of Joseph Haskenstyles, and partiality of the mayor, bribery, and other illegal practices; and stating, that petitioner had a majority of legal votes, and ought to have been returned.

Nov. 10, 1703. A petition of George Dashwood, esq., to a similar effect.

Dec. 6. Upon hearing of which, a question arose as to the right of election, and the committee resolved :

“ That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is only in the sons of freemen born after their fathers were made free, and in such as have served seven years' apprenticeship, or are made free by redemption.”

Hereupon the witnesses were examined as to disqualifying voters ; and as to bribery, &c. *pro* and *con.*, when, after much debate, the committee resolved :

“ That Joseph Haskenstyles, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That George Dashwood, esq., is duly elected.”

Nov. 2, 1705. A petition of George Dashwood, esq., against the return of Sir Jervoise Elwes and Philip Skippon, esq.

Dec. 6. Ordered : that Mr. Dashwood have leave to withdraw his petition.

Nov. 25, 1708. A petition of Thomas Canham, esq., against the return of Sir Harvey Elwes.

No determination.

Jan. 23, 1735. Richard Jackson and Peter Duncane, esq., petitioned.

Nov. 12, 1754. Mayor, aldermen, and several freemen, petitioned.

May 10, 1768. Thomas Fonnereau, esq., petitioned against the return of Patrick Blake and Walden Hanmer, esq. The merits of this election were tried at the bar.

Feb. 15, 1770. The House determined that the sitting members were duly elected.

In the year 1774, a petition was presented by Sir Walden Hanmer and Sir Patrick Blake against the return of Philip Champion Crespigny and Thomas Fonnereau, esqrs. The petition complained, that a great many legal voters, who tendered their voices for Hanmer and Blake, had been rejected, although they had been for many years in the possession and exercise of their rights, to

the knowledge of the mayor, and of Fonnereau, one of the sitting members; that others, who were not legally qualified, had also been admitted to vote for them; that the fair majority of legal votes was in favour of the petitioners; but that William Strutt, the mayor and returning officer, had acted partially and corruptly, both before and during the poll, and had declared the sitting members duly elected, and had returned them; and that money was given by the sitting members, or their agents, by way of bribe or reward, to persons who voted for them at the election.

Upon the hearing of the petition, it appeared, that the corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, six aldermen, 24 capital burgesses, and an indefinite number of freemen. The freedom in this borough is acquired by birth, servitude, or redemption. There have been a few instances of making what are called honorary freemen, or faggots; but they have never been allowed to exercise any franchise as members of the body corporate.

The point upon which the petition turned was, the partiality of the corporation, who were in the interest of Mr. Crespigny, in refusing freemen, duly qualified by the custom of the borough, to their admission and enrolment.

The decision of the committee, according to Douglas, was,

“ That persons who derived their claim to their freedom from the antecedent title of birth, who had exercised all the rights of freemen, and that of voting for members of Parliament among the rest, for twenty years and upwards, before the last elec-

tion, who had demanded to be enrolled, (and offered to prove, that at their birth their fathers exercised and enjoyed the rights and franchises of freemen,) but were refused, had a right to vote, though they could not produce evidence of their admission, enrolled upon stamps."

And they afterwards informed the House, that they had determined, "That Sir Walden Hanmer, bart., and Sir Patrick Blake, bart., were duly elected, and ought to have been returned."

Oct. 31, 1780. Sir James Marriot, bart., petitioned against Mr. Crespigny's election.

April 26, 1781. The chairman of the committee that tried this contested election reported to the House, "That the petitioner was duly elected, and ought to have been returned."

"That Mr. Crespigny was not duly elected."

Nov. 9, 1800. Sir James Marriot petitioned against the return of Sir P. Blake and P. C. Crespigny, esq.

April 24, 1801. Report that Sir P. Blake and Sir James Marriot are duly elected.

CORPORATION.

It is governed by a mayor, recorder, six aldermen, and 24 common councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

See Representative History.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—725.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Sir John Coxe Hippesley, one member.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The corporation of this borough have for many years had a patron possessing the interest of government, who generally returns one member.

Thomas Champion Crespigny, esq., of Hontlesham Hall, in this county, was their patron from the year 1770 till 1802 ; but having been defeated in 1774 by Sir Walden Hanmer and Sir Patrick Blake, and again in 1784 by William Smith, esq., the present member for Norwich, and John Langston, esq., and a third time in 1801 by Sir James Marriot, he resigned them to Sir John Coxe Hippeley, who has continued their member ever since.

The other seat is always contested, and both are understood to go to the highest bidder; for though the corruption is as notorious in this borough as in any other, it has not been brought before the public, like Helstone, Hindon, Shaftesbury, Shoreham, Cricklade, Aylesbury, Ilchester, and many others.

The gross partiality of the corporation and returning officer has been manifested upon all the petitions ; and this is a grievance complained of in most boroughs, for which no adequate remedy or punishment is provided.

In 1702, the exclusive right of election was claimed by this corporation, and every succeeding contest has been a struggle between the former, which was called the *Bench*, and the latter, which was called the *Floor*. At the election in 1702, Benjamin Carter, the mayor and returning officer, declared, in consequence of an order he had obtained

from the governing part of the corporation, to oblige all persons claiming votes to *enrol* themselves, that no man should be suffered to poll whose name was not enrolled according to that order; and for want of such enrolment rejected several who had voted at previous elections for thirty years backwards. The unsuccessful candidate having petitioned, the first of the two resolutions respecting the right of election was the consequence. The election having been declared void on account of bribery, a new contest ensued between the same parties, and was followed by another petition from the former petitioner. In this case the *only* point was, whether, according to the right of election declared by the first resolution, those who had served five years as attorney's clerks had a right to vote. In order to decide this point, the other resolution, which is merely an explanation of the former, was made.

DUNWICH.

DUNWICH is a borough and market-town in the hundred of Blything, Suffolk, on the top of a loose cliff, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Southwold, and 100 from London, containing 42 houses and 184 inhabitants. This was formerly a flourishing town and an episcopal see; but William the Conqueror transferred the latter to Thetford, and thence to Norwich. Sprats are cured here in the same manner as herrings at Yarmouth. The market is held on Mondays; but is so scantily supplied, as scarcely to

merit the name of market. The fair is on the 25th of July.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This was a borough at the time of the General Survey, and had then in it 120 burgesses. It sent members to Parliament ever since the 23rd of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. January 9, 1670. Ordered: "That in the matter between Sir Thomas Allen and Mr. Wood, concerning an election for this borough, be referred to the Committee of Elections, and that Sir Thomas Allen and Mr. Wood do forbear to sit till it be determined.

Sergeant Charlton reported from the committee their opinion.

1st. "That it is no double return."

2d. "That Mr. Wood was returned by the proper officer."

3rd. "That Mr. Wood ought to sit till the merits of the case be determined."

To which the House agreed.

Jan. 23, 1688. A petition of Sir Philip Skippon, complaining of a double return for this borough.

Feb. 7. Col. Birch reported, "That the bailiffs returned, under their common seal, Roger North, esq., and Sir Thomas Allen, having the majority of the burgesses resident within the borough; and also Sir Philip Skippon and Sir Robert Rich, who were elected by a less number of burgesses resident within the borough, and by the major part of the freemen of the corporation who live out of the said borough."

Whereupon the committee resolved :

“ That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the freemen of the said borough commonly called out-sitters, as well as the freemen inhabiting within the said borough.”

“ Sir Philip Skippon, knt., and Sir Robert Rich, knt. and bart., are duly elected burgesses.”

Whereto the House agreed, and ordered the bailiffs of the said borough to attend and amend the return.

Nov. 13, 1691. A petition of Henry Heveningham, esq., against the return of John Bence, esq.

A petition of John Bence, esq., complaining of an undue return of said Henry Heveningham, esq.

Dec. 8. Sergeant Trenchard reported, “ That it was a double return ; and that the right of return determined the right of the election ; and both sides agreed the settling the right of election would depend on settling the qualification of the electors.”

Upon which a long debate followed, and many witnesses were examined ; when the committee resolved :

“ That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough was not in the freemen commonly called out-sitters, as well as in the freemen inhabiting within the said borough.”

“ That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is only in the freemen inhabiting within the said borough.”

“ That John Bence, esq., is duly elected.”

Which resolutions were agreed to by the House, and the clerk of the crown ordered to attend to amend the return.

Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of Roger Wood and John Bence, esqrs., complaining of an undue return of Sir Robert Rich and Henry Heveningham, esq.

Feb. 12, 1696. Colonel Granvyle reported the case, and that the question was as to the right of election.

Which being discussed, and many witnesses examined, and charters and customs quoted, the petitioners' counsel proceeded to prove bribery and other irregularities against the sitting members in procuring votes.

Then the sitting members proceeded to disqualify the petitioners' voters, and several witnesses being heard, the committee resolved:

"That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the freemen commonly called out-sitters, as well as the freemen inhabiting within the said borough."

"That Sir Robert Rich is duly elected."

"That Henry Heveningham, esq., is duly elected."

Dec. 22, 1698. A petition of Sir Henry Johnson, knt., against the return of Sir Robert Rich and Henry Heveningham, esq.

No report.

Nov. 24, 1708. A petition of Sir Richard Allen and the Hon. Daniel Harvey, esq., against the return of Sir Charles Bloyce and Robert Kemp, esq., complaining of bribery, menaces, treating,

and other illegal practices, and that Sir Charles Bloyce was not capable of being elected, or returned, as being one of the bailiffs; nor had the other bailiff alone any authority to make a return, the two bailiffs making but one officer.

Feb. 5, 1709. The House proceeded to hear the matter of the said election, and the counsel on both sides; when witnesses were examined, and it was resolved:

“That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is only in the freemen inhabiting within the said borough, not receiving alms.”

“That Sir Charles Bloyce, bart., is not duly elected.”

“That Robert Kemp is not duly elected.”

“That Sir Richard Allen is duly elected.”

“That Daniel Harvey, esq., is duly elected.”

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Sir Robert Rich, bart., and Charles Long, esq., against the return of Sir George Downing, bart., and Captain Vernon, complaining of bribery and other undue practices.

A petition of the freemen inhabiting within the said borough to the same effect.

Nov. 10. Ordered: “That Sir Robert Rich and Charles Long, esq., have leave to withdraw their petition.

Nov. 14. Ordered: “That the freemen of this borough have leave to withdraw their petition.

Jan. 23, 1735. Sir Robert Rich, bart., and Charles Long, esq., petitioned.

Withdrew their petition.

CORPORATION

Consists of two bailiffs and 12 capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In this borough, (if we may be allowed to call it by such a name) is in the Freemen inhabiting within the remains of the borough, and not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—14.

RETURNING OFFICERS—two Bailiffs.

PROPRIETORS—Lord Huntingfield and Snowdon Barne, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

Dunwich, which was formerly a celebrated city, a see of a bishop, an important sea-port, and the most considerable place in the county of Suffolk, is now a remarkable proof of the instability of all sublunary things; it being reduced to a mean village, composing only forty-two houses, and half a church, the other part having been demolished. It still, however, retains *the name* of a corporation, having two bailiffs, and twelve capital burgesses, one half of whom are named by Lord Huntingfield, and the rest by Mr. Barne, who are joint proprietors of this branch of British representation.

The destruction of this borough was occasioned by the incursion of the sea, seven of its parishes out of eight having been destroyed: and the encroachment that is still making will probably, in a few years, oblige the constituent body to betake

themselves to a boat, whenever the king's writ shall summon them to the exercise of their elective functions; as the necessity of adhering to *forms*, in the farcical solemnity of borough elections, is not to be dispensed with.

In the first year of the reign of King John, it had a charter of liberties, in which the burgesses, among other things, had the privilege of giving, selling, or otherwise disposing of, their lands and houses, within the town, at pleasure. This charter cost the citizens three hundred marks, besides ten falcons, and five gyr falcons. In the reign of Richard I. Dunwich was fined one thousand and sixty marks, Orford fifteen, Ipswich two hundred, and Yarmouth two hundred, for the unlawful practice of supplying the enemy with corn; which may give some insight into the trade of these towns at that time.

Here were six, if not eight, parish churches; namely, St. John's, (which was a rectory, and seems to have been swallowed up by the sea about the year 1540;) St. Martin's, St. Nicholas's, and St. Peter's, which were likewise rectories; and St. Leonard's, and All Saints, which were impropriated. The register of Eye also mentions the churches of St. Michael and St. Bartholomew, which were swallowed up by the sea before the year 1331.

The walls, which encompassed upwards of seven acres of land, had three gates. That to the eastward is quite demolished; but the arches of the two gates to the westward continue pretty firm, and have something curious in their workman-

ship, but are almost covered with ivy. This town being built on a hill consisting of loam and sand, it is no wonder the sea had such an effect upon it, as to undermine and wash it away.

ORFORD.

ORFORD, a decayed borough, in the parish of Sudborn, and hundred of Plomsgate, Suffolk, is situated near the confluence of the rivers One and the Alde, 5 miles from Aldeborough, and 90 from London; containing 83 houses, and 751 inhabitants. It is an ill-built town, but was once a place of considerable trade, till the sea throwing up a dangerous bar at the mouth of the harbour, it was choaked up, and the town fell to decay. The market is on Monday. Fair, June 24.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough, as Dr. Willis writes, was summoned to send burgesses to Parliament during all King Edward the First's time, from the time of the first general summons. But Mr. Prynne's list is only from the 23rd of Edward I., and Mr. Holmes hath added the 35th of Edward I. After this we find it discontinued till Henry the Eighth's time, and has since been constantly summoned.

PETITIONS, &c. Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of Sir Edward Bacon, bart., and William Johnson, esq., against the return of Sir Thomas Felton and Sir Charles Hedges.

Nov. 16, 1699. The petitioners presented their petition again, to the same effect.

Feb. 10, 1700. Sir Rowland Gwynn reported the matter as follows: "That the first question between the parties was the right of election.

"That for the petitioners it was insisted, that the right of election was in the mayor, portmen, capital burgesses, and freemen of the said borough.

"That for the sitting members it was insisted, that the right of election was in the mayor, portmen, and capital burgesses only."

Resolved: "That it is the opinion of the committee,

"That the right of election for this borough is in the mayor, portmen, capital burgesses, and freemen."

Resolved: "That Sir Thomas Felton, bart., and Sir Charles Hedges, knight, are not duly elected."

"That Sir Edmond Bacon, bart., and William Johnson, esq., are duly elected."—Which resolutions were agreed to by the House; and the return ordered to be amended.

Feb. 13, 1700. A petition of Sir Charles Hedges, knight, and Sir Thomas Felton, bart., complaining of an undue return of Sir Edmond Bacon and Sir Edward Turner.

The committee resolved:

"That Sir Edmond Bacon, bart., and Sir Edward Turner, knt., are duly elected."

To which the House agreed.

January. A petition of Charles Killigrew, esq., and Charles May, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Edmond Bacon and Sir Edward Turner.

Jan. 14. A petition of Daniel Whidby, esq., to the same effect.

No report.

Nov. 4, 1702. A petition of Edward Griffith and Charles May, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Edmund Bacon and Sir Edward Turner.

A petition of Thomas Thurston, esq., mayor of this borough, and several of the commonalty and freemen to the same effect.

No report.

Nov. 24, 1708. A petition of William Thompson, of the Middle Temple, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Edward Turner, and Clement Corrance, and bribery, menaces, and other indirect practices.

Resolved : " That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is in the mayor, portmen, capital burgesses, and freemen, not receiving alms or charity."

Resolved : " That Clement Corrance, esq., is duly elected."

" That Sir Edward Turner is not duly elected."

" That William Thompson, esq., is duly elected; and ordered the return to be amended."

Oct. 25, 1722. A petition of Thomas Norton, and Thomas Dacres, esq., against the return of Dudley North and William Acton, esqrs.

Nov. 27. Petition withdrawn.

Jan. 23, 1735. Colonel John Cope, and Joseph Wyndham Ashe, esq., petitioned.

Renewed 2nd and 3rd sessions, but no determination.

CORPORATION

Consists of a mayor, eight portmen, and twelve capital burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in the Mayor, Portmen, Capital Burgesses, and Freemen of the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—20.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PROPRIETOR—Marquis of Hertford.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough ranks with Newtown in the Isle of Wight, Mitchell, and Bossinny, in Cornwall, Castle Rising in Norfolk, Midhurst in Sussex, Old Thirsk in Yorkshire, Gatton in Surrey, and Old Sarum in Wiltshire ; some of which are without houses, and others form but so many wretched hamlets. A foreigner would find it difficult to believe that a few such miserable hovels should send as many members to the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, as eight of the largest and most populous counties in the three kingdoms ; and that Glasgow, the second city in Britain, with Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Stockport, and Halifax, the most extensive towns in opulence, manufacture, and population, should be altogether unrepresented. It appears so preposterous an absurdity, that we believe our own countrymen in general are but little acquainted with its existence.

This excrescence of the constitution, as the

rotten boroughs were termed by the great Lord Chatham, was formerly the property of Pryce Devereux, Lord Viscount Hereford, whose executors sold it to the late Marquis of Hertford, father of the present possessor.

The right of election in this nominal borough is vested in a mayor, recorder, eight portmen, and twelve capital burgesses; but this number, we understand, is never complete, and mostly composed of non-residents who are the brothers and relations of the proprietor. The constituent and representative body being generally made up of this nobleman's family, the usual mode of canvassing is dispensed with, and the election is made amongst themselves, without any hazard of contest or opposition.

ALDBOROUGH.

ALDBOROUGH is a borough and market town in the hundred of Plomsgate, Suffolk, 3 miles from Orford, and 94 from London; contains 201 houses, and 804 inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated in the valley of Slaughton. The sea washes the east side of it, and the river Alde runs by the south end, and affords a good quay. The encroachments of the sea upon the town have made considerable ravages, nearly one entire street being washed away. Here is a small market on Wednesday and Saturday.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough never sent members to Parliament till the 13th of Eliz.

Report made of the validity of the burgesses, and ordered by Mr. Attorney's assent, that the burgesses shall remain according to the returns, for that the validity of the charters of their towns is elsewhere to be examined, if cause be.

March 24, 1689. A petition of Sir Edward Turner, knt., against the return of William Johnson, esq.

Peckwell,
v. i. p. 126.

May 17, 1690. The question was, Whether by the word burgesses was meant the burgage tenants, or the inhabitants paying scot and lot? The committee decided in favour of the latter, and their resolution was agreed to by the House.

December 23, 1709. Michael Hyde and William Shepherd, esqrs., having petitioned against the return of Sir Henry Johnson, knt., and William Johnson, esq., the sitting members were found duly elected: and it was resolved that the right of election was in the bailiffs, burgesses, and freemen.

Glenbervie,
v. i. p. 236.

John Molesworth and John Holt, esqrs., having petitioned against the election of Sir Henry Johnson, knt., and William Johnson, esq., it appears by the report of the committee, June 16, 1715, that an attempt had been made, notwithstanding the determination of 1709, to limit the right of election to the burgesses resident. Accordingly they resolved, first, "That the right of election is *not* in the bailiffs, burgesses, and freemen of the

said borough not receiving alms." 2dly. "That the right of election is in the bailiffs and burgesses only resident within the said borough, and not receiving alms." 3dly. Resolved, "That Sir Henry Johnson is not duly elected." 4thly. Resolved, "That William Johnson, esq., is not duly elected." 5thly. Resolved, "That John Molesworth, esq., is duly elected." 6thly, Resolved, "That John Holt, esq., is duly elected." The first four resolutions being severally read a second time, the same were, upon the question, severally put thereupon, negatived by the House, and the sitting members were consequently duly elected.

CORPORATION

Consists of twelve superior and twelve inferior burgesses, from amongst whom two bailiffs are appointed.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Dec. 23, 1709. Is in the Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Freemen, not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 35.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the two Bailiffs.

PATRON—Sir Claude Champion De Crespigny, bart.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The right of election appears to have been anciently in the inhabitant householders paying scot and lot: but limited, by the resolution of 1709, to the bailiffs, burgesses, and freemen, not receiving alms; which right was again attempted to be further confined in 1715, by omitting the word *free-*

men, and leaving it in the *bailiffs and burgesses only*, but this resolution of the committee was not agreed to by the House.

Mr. Strode and Mr. Casamajor were candidates on the right of the inhabitant householders at the last general election, in 1812, under the auspices of the Marquis of Salisbury, who has a seat in the neighbourhood of this borough, but they neglected to prosecute their claim before a committee of the House of Commons.

Sir Philip Champion De Crespigny and his ancestors have had the entire patronage of this place, and the nomination of their members, for more than seventy years.

EYE.

EYE, a borough and market town in the hundred of Hartismere, Suffolk, $20\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ipswich, and 90 from London; containing 300 houses, and 1,734 inhabitants, of whom 220 were returned as being employed in trade, &c. The principal manufacture here is that of bone-lace. The market is on Saturdays, and the fair on Whit-Monday.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This is a very ancient borough, and was such at the time of the general survey, having then twenty-five burgesses. It is now a town corporate, and has sent members to Parliament ever since anno 13 Eliz.

April 6, 1571. An inquiry was directed to be

made concerning the right of election of members for this borough.

April 9th. A report made of their validity, and their charters to be examined elsewhere.

Nov. 12, 1675. A petition of George Welsh, esq., complaining of an undue election of Robert Reeves, esq.

Feb. 12, 1677. Resolved: "That Robert Reeves, esq., is duly elected."

Oct. 28, 1680. A petition of Sir Charles Gaudy and Sir Robert Reeves, against the return of Charles Fox, esq., and George Welsh, esq.

Dec. 8, 1680. Resolved: "That Sir Charles Gaudy and Sir Robert Reeves are not duly elected."

Resolved: "That Charles Fox, esq., and George Welsh, esq., are duly elected:"—to which the House agreed, and ordered the return to be amended.

The House, taking notice of several abuses and misdemeanors committed in this borough and corporation relating to elections, and otherwise,

Ordered: "A committee be appointed to examine into the said abuses and misdemeanors, and report the same, with their opinion."

No report.

March 24. A petition of Sir George Duncombe and George Welsh.

No report.

CORPORATION.

Two bailiffs, a recorder, ten principal, and twenty-four inferior burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in the free burgesses and corporation, together with the inhabitants paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 200.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the Bailiffs.

PATRON—Marquis Cornwallis.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The greatest part of this borough belongs to Marquis Cornwallis, whose nomination of the members is implicitly submitted to.

Out of fourteen members sent to Parliament from the boroughs in this county, thirteen of them are appointed under the immediate nomination or direct influence of *nine individuals*.

SURREY.

SURREY is an inland county of England, bounded on the north by Middlesex, and a part of Bucks, from which it is separated by the Thames; on the west by Berks and Hants; on the south by Sussex, and on the east by Kent. Its shape is oblong, being about 37 miles long and 27 broad, containing an area of 811 square statute miles, or 519,040 square acres, having 80,000 arable, 300,000 pasturage, and 90,000 uncultivated. It

is divided into 13 hundreds, viz. Blackheath, Brixton, Copthorne and Effingham, Elmbridge, Farnham, Godalming, Godley and Chertsey, Kingston, Reigate, Tandridge Wallington, Woking and Wooton; has six boroughs, Gatton, Haslemere, Bletchingley, Guildford, Reigate and Southwark; and eight market-towns, Chertsey, Croydon, Dorking, Epsom, Ewell, Farnham, Kingston and Woking, and 140 parishes; the whole containing 46,072 houses, and 269,043 inhabitants, viz. 127,138 males and 141,905 females, of whom 42,865 were employed in trade and manufacture, and 2,746 in agriculture. The amount of money raised for the maintenance of the poor in 1803, was 179,005*l.* at the rate of 5*s.* 8*d.* in the pound. The assessment under the act granting the tax on property in 1806, was 3,646,783*l.* the average scale of mortality from the registered burials in ten years, appears to have been as 1 to 41 of the existing population. It is included in the Home Circuit, the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Winchester; it sends 14 members to Parliament, two for each of the boroughs, and two for the county.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This county has been represented in Parliament from the 22d of Edward I., and was joined with the county of Sussex under one sheriff.

PETITIONS, &c. Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of Edward Harvey, esq., complaining of an undue return of Denzill Onslow, esq.

Report, petitioner objected to several of the sitting member's votes, as no freeholders: in an-

swer to which it was insisted, that exception could not now be made, they having sworn themselves to be freeholders.

Resolved, "That evidence ought not to be admitted to disqualify an elector, who, at the election, swore himself to be a freeholder."

Resolved, "That Denzill Onslow, esq., is duly elected."

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This county is independent of absolute controul. In the year 1775, Sir Joseph Mawbey, bart., upon the death of Mr. Scawen, one of their representatives, became a candidate in the interest of the yeomanry. He was opposed by the late Sir Francis Vincent, who had the support of the aristocracy, and by the Hon. William Norton, now Lord Grantley, who had the countenance of the administration of that day; but, notwithstanding these powerful exertions, which were used against him, he was finally victorious. The next instance that the freeholders gave of their independence was, in the contest between Admiral Keppel and the Hon. Thomas Onslow, when the former gentleman was returned by a majority of six hundred. Upon the Admiral's being called up to the House of Lords, Lord Althorp, now Earl Spencer, was chosen in his stead. The death of this nobleman's father occasioned another vacancy for this county, when Sir Robert Clayton was elected. This gentleman however gave so much umbrage to the people, and became so unpopular, from the support which he gave the coalition, that in the year

1784 the Hon. William Norton was the object of their choice, and Sir Robert was thrown out.

At the general election in 1790, Lord William Russell, brother to the Duke of Bedford, and the Hon. W. C. Finch were elected.

At the succeeding general elections in 1796, 1802, and 1806, Lord William Russell and Sir John Frederic were chosen. In 1806, those gentlemen were opposed by Samuel Thornton, esq., when a most extraordinary circumstance occurred. Mr. Thornton expected to defeat Lord William Russell, but his lordship kept at the head of the poll during the whole election, and Mr. Thornton was one hundred and thirty votes above Sir John Frederic. In this state of the poll Mr. Thornton thought proper to decline, when the sheriff by consent of parties returned Lord Wm. Russell and Sir John Frederic. The latter gentleman being at the time the return was signed above one hundred and thirty votes inferior to the numbers polled for Mr. Thornton.

It has been the constant practice in the rotten boroughs for persons exercising the powers of returning officer to admit votes for the candidate they chose to favour, who did not possess even a colourable qualification, and to refuse others for the opposite candidate, against whom no legal objection could be made; and it appears by the journals that this scandalous conduct has been carried on with impunity ever since the restoration. The only punishment that has ever been inflicted upon such a flagrant violation of the rights of election, has been to order the delinquent into custody for

a few days, in which case the person for whom he had committed this injustice was sure to pay his expenses, and generally to reward his perjury with a bribe!

But to see the rights of a whole county compromised between the successful and the losing candidate, and the high-sheriff deliberately return the person who had only a minority of votes, as duly elected, is a precedent of so dangerous a tendency as to annihilate the remaining rights of the people altogether; and what renders this singular act more remarkable is, *that the candidate returned with a minority of votes took his seat for the whole of that Parliament without any notice being taken of it in the House of Commons or elsewhere.*

In 1807, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Holme Summer were chosen.

At the last general election in 1812, there was a contest, Mr. Holme Summer and Sir Thomas Sutton were candidates on the ministerial, and Sir Thomas Turton on the independent interest, when it appeared that the same spirit which animated the county upon former occasions no longer existed, the numbers at the final close of the poll being,

For G. H. Summer, esq. 1924

Sir Thomas Sutton 1791

Sir Thomas Turton 1017

On the death of Sir Thomas Sutton, in 1814, Mr. Samuel Thornton was again chosen.

The principal interests in this county are in the Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Onslow, Earl of Aylesford, Earl Spencer, Viscount Middleton, and Lord King.

SOUTHWARK,

SOUTHWARK, a borough in the county of Surrey, and a suburb in the city of London, lying on the opposite side of the Thames, and connected with the metropolis by London bridge; containing 10,933 houses, inhabited by 67,448 persons, viz. 31,704 males, and 35,744 females, of whom 15,037 were employed in various trades. From its extent and population, it is equal to many cities, as well as in opulence and trade.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough is separated from the city of London by the River Thames only. It is not ascertained at what time it first sent representatives.

PETITIONS, &c. Feb. 26, 1592. Upon a motion of Sir George Moore's, touching the election of one Richard Hutton, gent., who being bailiff of this borough elected himself, and was returned by the sheriff. The question was, whether this be good?

March 8. Mr. Speaker attended the lord-keeper, touching his lordship's pleasure for the directing of a new writ for choosing another burgess for this borough, instead of Mr. Hutton, supposed to have been unduly and indirectly elected.

His lordship's answer was, that the said return of a burgess for this borough should stand.

March 2, 1623. Mr. Glandvile reported double return, viz. Mingay and Yarrow, and Yarrow and Bromfield.

Yarrow duly elected.

Question for the other two. All held this a void return for the uncertainty.

Pretended Mr. Mingay used indirect practices, but not proved.

Charged Mr. Bromfield's indenture antedated. Bromfield offered to relinquish to Mingay.

Agreed, that after a man is duly chosen he cannot relinquish.

Ordered, "That the election and return of Mr. Yarrow shall stand good, and that he shall sit in the House; and a new writ sent."

June 26, 1661. Sergeant Charlton reported, That Sir Thomas Bludworth and Mr. Moore were returned: and an hour and a half afterwards the poll was demanded for Alderman Langham and Mr. Thompson.

Opinion of the committee, that the poll was demanded too late; and that Sir Thomas Bludworth and Mr. Moore were duly elected.

March 19, 1678. A petition of Sir John Shorter and Thomas Smith, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Richard How, knt., and Peter Rich, esq.

No report.

March 25, 1680. A petition of the inhabitants and burgesses of this borough touching the election.

No report.

Jan. 26, 1688. A petition of the inhabitants of

this borough, complaining of an undue election and return.

Upon which the question was, whether any who did not pay scot and lot had a right to vote?

For the petitioners it was insisted that none had a right to elect but those who did pay scot and lot; of which number it was alleged Mr. Smith and Mr. Bowyer had the plurality.

That according to the poll taken by the bailiff, Sir Peter Rich had 1,677; Mr. Arnold 2,130; Mr. Smith 1,526; Mr. Bowyer 1,360.

But suggested that of those who paid scot and lot Mr. Smith had 664; Mr. Arnold had 626; Mr. Bowyer 538; Sir Peter Rich 464.

After some debate an agreement of the candidates was read, to poll all housekeepers not receiving alms.

Resolved, "That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough, is in all the Inhabitants being housekeepers, not receiving alms."

Resolved, "That Sir Peter Rich, knt., and John Arnold, esq., are duly elected.

March 27, 1690. A petition of Sir Peter Rich and Sir Thomas Cook, knts., against the return of Anthony Bowyer and John Arnold, esqrs.

Oct. 11. Another petition from the same against the same.

No report.

Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of Sir George Meggot, knt., complaining of an undue return of Anthony Bowyer and Charles Cox, esq., and that William Eyre, esq., bailiff, committed many un-

just practices by employing dishonest clerks, who polled several four or five times over, and four or five out of one house, and many other undue acts.

Resolved, "That Anthony Bowyer and Charles Cox, esqrs., are duly elected."

Resolved, "That the petition of Sir George Meggot, complaining of an undue election for this borough is vexatious, frivolous, and groundless."

Resolved, "That Sir George Meggot having preferred to this House a groundless and vexatious petition, relating to the election of members to serve in this Parliament for this borough, and having scandalized this House in declaring, 'That without being duly chosen, he had friends enough in the House to take him into the House,' be taken into the custody of the serjeant at arms attending this House."

Resolved, "That Sir George Meggot do make satisfaction to the members of this House he petitioned against, for the costs and expenses they have been put to, by reason of such petition."

Nov. 23, 1696. A complaint being made to the House that Sir George Meggot had prosecuted at law several persons, for what they testified this last sessions, at the Committee of Privileges and Elections, upon hearing the matter touching the election for this borough.

Resolved, "That Sir George Meggot having prosecuted at law Mr. Thomas Malyn and John Ladd for what they testified at the Committee of Privileges, the last sessions, upon the matter touching the election for this borough, is guilty of a breach of the privilege of the House."

Ordered, "That Sir George Meggot be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House."

Oct. 24, 1702. A petition of John Lade, esq., complaining of an undue return of Charles Cox and John Cholmley, esqrs., and that the agents and servants of Mr. Cox and Mr. Cholmley caused a great riot, whereby many persons who would have voted for the petitioner were prevented.

Resolved, "That there was a great tumult and riot at the election of burgesses to serve in this present Parliament for this borough."

Resolved, "That the said tumult and riot was committed by the servants of, and agents for, Charles Cox, and John Cholmley, esqrs."

After this the counsel for the petitioner proceeded in regard to the right of election, and said that the inhabitants at large had been admitted to vote at this election, on pretence of which the prisoners in the King's Bench had sometimes voted, and so many others, that it was impossible ever to have a fair election, or a scrutiny; that none of common right ought to vote, but such as were liable to pay wages to their members; and those were only such as paid scot and lot.

For the sitting members it was contended that all housekeepers not receiving alms had a right to vote.

Resolved, "That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough is only in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot."

Resolved, "That Charles Cox, and John Cholmley, esqrs., are not duly elected."

Resolved, "That the late election of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this borough, is a void election."

A new writ ordered.

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of John Lade, esq., complaining of an undue return of John Cholmley and Sir Charles Cox, by threats and other indirect practices, &c.

No report.

Jan 14, 1711. A petition of Sir George Matthews, knt., complaining of an undue return of Mr. Halsey, by bribery and other indirect practices, and also partiality of the bailiff.

Feb. 7. Mr. Freeman reported, that the right of election was agreed to be in the Inhabitants of this borough, paying scot and lot.

That the poll was thus,

For the Petitioner 831

The sitting Members 815

Resolved, "That at the late election, the poll being closed and cast up, and the majority of votes declared by proclamation, for Sir George Matthews, Henry Martin, esq., the bailiff could not proceed to a scrutiny, not having adjourned to any time or place.

The committee then proceeded to hear the matter of bribery and corruption alleged against the petitioner.

Rook said, Sir George Matthews went round St. Saviour's parish; that Mr. Parker who solicited for Sir George Matthews paid 1s. 18d. and 2s. at several houses for beer, and 10l. at the Fountain

tavern, and another reckoning of 13s. or 14s. for beer.

Harris said, 28*l.* was expended at his House, and Colonel Meggot had the bill.

Francis said, that before and at the time of the election, he saw Sir George Matthews pay about 20*l.* at the Vine.

White said, Arnold and Baylis who voted for Sir George paid him a bill of 3*l.* for beer for the voters.

Resolved, "That Edmund Halsey is not duly elected."

Resolved, "That Sir George Matthews is duly elected."

Resolved, "That at the late election Henry Martin, esq., the bailiff of this borough was guilty of arbitrary and illegal proceedings in breach of the privilege of this House, and tending to the subversion of the freedom of election.

Ordered, "That the said Henry Martin, esq., be, for his said offence, taken into custody of the sergeant at arms attending this House."

March 4, 1713. A petition of Sir George Matthews, and Samuel Rush, esq., complaining of an undue return of John Lade and Fisher Tench, esqrs., by bribery and illegal practices of the bailiffs.

April 20, 1714. That the right of election was agreed to be in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot.

The poll was,

For Mr. Lade	792
Mr. Tench	770
Sir George Matthews	721
Mr. Rush	710

The petitions objected bribery and indirect practices in the sitting members; and that the bailiff had refused several of the petitioners' voters, and they called several witnesses who proved the bribery, &c.

Resolved, "That John Lade and Fisher Tench, esqrs., are not duly elected."

Resolved, "That Sir George Matthews, bart., and Samuel Rush, esq., are not duly elected."

And resolved, "That the election for the said borough is a void election."

May 8th. A petition of Thomas Lant and Samuel Rush, esq., complaining of an undue return of John Lade and Fisher Tench, esqrs.

Resolved, "That John Lade, esq., and Fisher Tench, esq., are duly elected."

Jan. 23, 1723. A petition of Walter Bagenal, esq., against the return of John Lade, esq.

— 24. A petition of Sir Fisher Tench, bart., against the return of John Lade, esq.

No report.

Jan. 23, 1735. Richard Shephard, esq., petitioned.

The last determination of the House made Dec. 10, 1702, whereby it was resolved, "That the right of election is only in the Inhabitants paying scot and lot was read, and the sitting members declared duly elected."

Dec. 4, 1741. Joseph Chitty, esq., petitioned.

In 1768, William Belchier, esq., petitioned against the election of Sir Joseph Mawbey, bart., John Woodward having taken the bribery oath at the election, the committee resolved that he should not be examined by the petitioner to prove that he had received a bribe. On the 14th of March,

1769, the chairman reported to the House, that the petition was frivolous, vexatious, and groundless. The House ordered Mr. Belchier to make satisfaction.

Sir Richard Hotham, bart., and several of the electors petitioned against the return of Paul Le Mesurier, esq. On the 4th of April, 1785, the chairman of the committee appointed to try this contested election, reported to the House that the sitting member was duly elected.

In 1796, George Tierney, esq., petitioned against the return of George Woodford Thellusson, esq. November 11, the chairman of the committee appointed to try this election reported to the House, that the allegations in the petition of Mr. Tierney against the return of Mr. Thellusson, as one of the representatives of Parliament for the borough of Southwark, and the evidence that had been adduced in behalf of Mr. Tierney, were sufficient to make the same a void election.

G. W. Thellusson, esq., having been returned again, George Tierney, esq., petitioned against his second election. The question in dispute was, whether or not Mr. Thellusson who had been guilty of treating, was, in the circumstances, eligible? The committee that tried this case reported to the House, Dec. 21, 1796, that G. W. Thellusson, esq., was not eligible to be elected, and ought not to have been elected; that George Tierney, esq., the petitioner, was duly elected, and ought to have been returned, and that the petition, or the opposition made to it, was not frivolous or vexatious.

Clifford,
p. 103, 104.

Clifford,
p. 131 et
seq.

Peckwell.
v. i. p. 107.

Peckwell,
v. ii. p. 142,
175.

July 1, 1803, Sir Thomas Turton, bart., petitioned against the return of the Right Hon. G. Tierney. The petition was renewed Nov. 23, and the day fixed for taking it into consideration was Feb. 7, 1804. On that day, there not being a sufficient number of members present for the ballot, the consideration of it was postponed to the following day, and orders were made that the names of the members absent at the ballots, and not serving on other election committees, should be reported, and that such as had not sufficient excuse for their non-attendance *should be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms.* It was also ordered that the House should be called over on that day, and the committee was appointed Feb 8. The petitioner complained that the sitting member had been guilty of bribery and other illegal practices; also of the interference of ministers and other servants under the crown of Great Britain in his favour, and of the partiality of the returning officer, who admitted illegal votes for the sitting member, and rejected legal votes for the petitioner. On the 27th of February the sitting member was declared duly elected.

Almost every election has produced a contest. In 1806, the numbers stood—

For Sir Thomas Turton 1753

H. Thornton, esq. 1592

Rt. Hon. George Tierney 1349

In 1807,

For Sir Thomas Turton 2152

H. Thornton, esq. 1824

C. Calvert, esq. 1634

In 1812,
 For C. Calvert, esq. 2180
 H. Thornton, esq. 1804
 W. J. Burdett, esq. 542

CORPORATION.

It is under the jurisdiction of the corporation of London.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

Nov. 10, 1702. Is only in the Inhabitants thereof paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 3000.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough is not under influence in any degree, or of any kind, owing to its great population and opulence, and the right of election being vested in the inhabitants, housekeepers, paying scot and lot. It consists of five parishes, St. John's, St. Olave's, St. Thomas's, St. George's, and St. Saviour's. Christ-church parish formed a part of this borough by the charter of Edward VI., but owing to disuse it has lost the privilege of voting, as well as great part of the parish of St. Saviour, which is called the Clink Liberty. The parish of Christ-church is on the south side of Blackfriars-bridge, and was formerly part of the parish of St. Saviour, but has been separated by act of parliament. This parish, in conjunction with the Clink Liberty, has undoubtedly a right to suffrages, in common with the other parishes of the borough;

and it is in agitation to petition Parliament, at a future election, for a re-establishment of those rights which have been lost for want of usage. Southwark is one of the twenty-six wards of the city of London, and is called, in the city records, the ward of Bridge Without, though it has not, in common with the other wards of the city, the election either of an alderman or common-council; the former being chosen by the court of aldermen, from amongst such of that body as have served the office of lord mayor; and the choice usually falls upon the senior.

The inhabitants have again petitioned the corporation of London, for the same liberty which is exercised by all the other wards, of electing their own alderman and common-council; and as the city of London have lately obtained a decision in the court of Common Pleas, which confirms to them the privilege of an exclusive jurisdiction over this borough, it is presumed that this ancient right will be extended to them; a right which has its foundation in justice, and which ought to be a leading feature in every constitution which has for its object the liberty, security, and prosperity of the community at large.

The borough of Southwark was governed by its own bailiff till the year 1327, when the city of London, finding great inconvenience from the escape of the malefactors thither, out of the reach and cognizance of the city magistrates, obtained a grant, by which the mayor of London was constituted bailiff of Southwark, and empowered to govern it by his deputy. However, the inhabit-

ants, some time after, recovered their former privileges, which they enjoyed till King Edward VI. granted Southwark to the city of London, for the sum of 647*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; and about a month after the passing of this patent, Southwark was made one of the city wards, named Bridge Ward Without, in consideration of the city's paying to the crown an additional sum of 500 marks; upon which the number of aldermen was increased from twenty-five to twenty-six, a new one being chosen to govern that borough. Hence Southwark has ever since been considered as subject to the lord mayor, who has under him a steward and bailiff, the former of whom regularly holds a court of record, in the hall on St. Margaret's hill, for all debts, damages, and trespasses within his limits; and the lord mayor proclaims a fair held at Southwark on the 19th of September.

It is divided into two parts; the Borough Liberty, in which the lord mayor's steward or bailiff holds the above courts; and the Clink, or Manor of Southwark, which is subdivided into the Great Liberty, the Guildhall, and the King's Manor; for each of which subdivisions, a court-leet is held, where the constables, ale-conners, and flesh-tasters, are chosen, and other business transacted. The Clink Liberty is under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Winchester, who, besides a court-leet, keeps a court of record here, by his steward and bailiff, for pleas of debt, damages, and trespasses. Court-leets are also kept at Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.

GUILDFORD.

GUILDFORD is a borough and market-town, consisting of three parishes in the hundred of Woking, Surrey, 30 miles from London; contains 464 houses and 2,634 inhabitants, viz. 1,242 males and 1,392 females, of whom 495 were returned as being employed in various trades, &c. The river Wey was made navigable to Guildford about the year 1656, by which the parish and town carries on a considerable trade in corn, malt, beer, &c., to the metropolis. The market is on Saturday, and is well supplied. The fairs are on the 4th May, 2d October, and 22d November.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough sent members to Parliament from 23 Edward I. to the present time.

PETITIONS, &c. March 28, 1679. A petition of Algernon Sidney esq., complaining of an undue return of Thomas Dalmahoy, esq.

No report.

Jan. 23, 1688. A petition of Morgan Randyll, esq., complaining of an undue election and return.

Upon which a question arose as to the right of election, when, after much debate,

April 24, 1689. Resolved: "That the right of election of burgesses to serve in Parliament, is only in the freemen and freeholders of the said town, paying scot and lot, resident in the same."

“That John Weston, esq., is duly elected.”

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of John Weston, esq., complaining of an undue return of Foot Onslow, esq.

Nov. 16, 1699. Another petition of John Weston to the same effect.

No report.

Dec. 1, 1710. A petition of Morgan Randyll, esq., complaining of an undue return of Robert Wroth, esq., by notorious bribery, and other unlawful practices.

Feb. 3, 1711. Reported, “That the right of election was agreed to be in the mayor, freemen, and freeholders of the said borough, residing in the borough, paying scot and lot. And it was agreed: that one who had served seven years’ apprenticeship to a freeman was, *ipso facto*, a freeman.”

The poll was,

For Mr. Wroth.....111

Mr. Randyll.....108

To take off thirteen of Mr. Wroth’s votes; eight as not qualified, and five others on account of bribery; they called several witnesses who proved the same.

Resolved: “That Robert Wroth, esq., is not duly elected.”

“That Morgan Randyll is duly elected.”

March 19, 1713. A petition of John Walter, esq., complaining of an undue return of Denzil Onslow, esq.

April 27. Sir Gilbert Dolben reported the matter of the said election.

“That the right of election was agreed to be in

the mayor, freemen, and freeholders, resident within the borough, paying scot and lot."

The petitioner objected against eighteen of Mr. Onslow's voters, for not being qualified, and two on a charge of bribery.

Mr. Onslow's counsel excepted against seven of Mr. Walter's voters, for not being qualified, and two on a charge of bribery.

Resolved: "That Denzil Onslow, esq., is duly elected."

Jan. 23, 1735. Charles Child, esq., petitioned.

In 1796, Peter Botham, esq., petitioned, and a day was appointed for trying the same: but Mr. B. neglecting to give in his recognizance agreeable to law, the order for trying it was discharged.

In 1806, the Hon. Chapple Norton petitioned against the return of G. H. Sumner, esq., and on March 10, 1807, the chairman of the committee who tried this contested election reported to the House, that G. H. Sumner, esq., was not duly elected, and ought not to have been returned, and that the Hon. Chapple Norton was duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

CORPORATION.

A mayor, recorder, seven aldermen, and an indefinite number of bailiffs and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

April 24, 1699. Is only in the Freemen and Freeholders, paying scot and lot, and resident in the town.

Feb. 3, 1710. It was agreed, that one who had served seven years to a freeman, was, *ipso facto*, a freeman.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 170.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Mayor.

PATRON—Earl of Onslow.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

From the year 1728 to 1774, this borough was under the absolute influence of the Onslow family, and it was invariably represented by some branches of it; but in 1774, the late Sir Fletcher Norton obtained an interest here, and continued to represent it till he was created Lord Grantley, in 1782; from which period till the last election in 1812, General Norton continued to be one of its members, with the exception of the general election in 1796, when George Holme Sumner, esq., obtained one return, with the assistance of Lord Onslow. At the last general election in 1812, the Earl of Onslow appears to have recovered the family influence by nominating both the members.

This influence is maintained principally by government patronage. A barber, who was an alderman of this corporation, has been a patent land-waiter in the port of London: and preferment is distributed here as in all other boroughs, among those who have the merit of serving election purposes.

The town of Guildford, like Taunton and many others, has not more than half of its district and

population within the limits of the borough that chooses the members.

This being the county town, the election of knights of the shire is always held here, and the assizes once every other year.

HASLEMERE.

HASLEMERE, a borough in the parish of Chidingfold, hundred of Godalming, Surrey, on the borders of Sussex, nine miles from Godalming, and 43 from London; containing 132 houses and 642 inhabitants. Its fairs are May 12 and September 25.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough was never (as Dr. Willis writes,) represented in Parliament until the 27th of Queen Elizabeth, from which time it has continued so to be until now.

PETITIONS, &c. May 17, 1661. Sergeant Charlton reported a double return: "That James Gresham, esq., and Challoner Chute, esq., are returned by one indenture, and George Evelyn and Thomas Morrice, esqrs., by another."

May 20. Resolved: "That the House do agree with the committee, that the inhabitant-freeholders only have voice in election: and that the said Mr. George Evelyn and Thomas Morrice had the majority of voices, and were duly elected."

And Mr. Sergeant Charlton further reported from the said committee: "That the bailiff of this

borough said, that if Mr. Chute and Mr. Gresham had but five voices, he would return them; and that it lay in his little pate to return whom he pleased."

May 21. The said bailiff being brought, by the sergeant at arms, to the table of the House, the return of the bailiff was amended, by erasing out the names of Mr. Chute and Mr. Gresham, and inserting the names of Mr. Evelyn and Mr. Morrice.

And the said bailiff being then taken to the bar of this House, Mr. Speaker did reprove him for his offence, and let him know he was worthy of severer punishment, and liable to be sued at law for his false return. And the said bailiff appearing to be a very ignorant person, and humbly craving pardon and mercy of the House on his knees, he was ordered to be discharged, paying his fees.

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of Denzil Onslow, esq.; also a petition of Francis Donnington, esq., against the return of Sir William Moore, bart.

Nov. 11. Resolved: "That Sir William Moore, bart., is not duly elected."

Resolved, "That Denzil Onslow, esq., and Francis Dorrington, esq., are duly elected."

Mr. Treby also reported, "That it appeared to the committee, that William Rapley, the bailiff of the said borough, did, on the 30th of August, 1679, make a false return of Sir William Moore, bart.

And at a trial of an action afterwards brought by Mr. Onslow against the returning officer, for a false return, the opinion, that the occasional con-

veyance of burgages was not illegal, was not only denied, but reprehended with great severity and indignation, as an insult to the good policy of the state, and to the government itself. It was there said, "that the making of votes by such means
" was a very evil and unlawful thing, and tended
" to the destruction of the government, and de-
" bauching of Parliament;" and "that it was
" senseless to think such practices were part of
" the constitution of our government, or to ima-
" gine that persons whom we entrust with our
" lives and fortunes ought to be made and chosen
" by such evil devices."

Dec. 12, 1698. A petition of George Rodney Bridges, esq., against the return of Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe.

Feb. 9, 1699. The right of election was agreed to be in the freeholders resident within the borough.

After which, witnesses were called as to bribery and other illegal practices.

Whereupon the committee resolved: "That Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe is duly elected."

"That the petition of George Rodney Bridges, esq., against Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe is frivolous and vexatious."

Oct. 24, 1702. A petition of Lewis Oglethorpe, complaining of an undue return of James Tichborne, esq., by the bailiff's maliciously making a double return.

Oct. 26. A petition of James Tichborne, esq., against the return of Lewis Oglethorpe, esq., complaining of his being a minor, and therefore unqualified.

Nov. 10. Mr. Oglethorpe having been proved of age, the committee resolved:

“That Lewis Oglethorpe, esq., is duly elected.”

Dec. 5, 1710. A petition of Nicholas Carew, esq., complaining of an undue return of Theophilus Oglethorpe, esq., by bribery and other indirect practices, and prevailing with William Elliot, the bailiff, to act partially.—No report.

March 3, 1713. A petition of Theophilus Oglethorpe, esq., complaining of an undue return of Thomas Onslow, esq., by bribes, &c.

March 4. The aforesaid petition appearing not to be duly signed by Mr. Oglethorpe,

Resolved, “That the said petition be rejected.”

March 28, 1715. A petition of John Walter and George Vernon, esqrs., against the return of Sir Montague Blundell and Sir Nicholas Carew.

A petition of several freeholders resident within this borough to the same effect.—No report.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of the Right Hon. Montague Lord Viscount Blundell, of the kingdom of Ireland, and More Mollyneux, esq., complaining of an undue return of James Oglethorpe and Peter Burrell, esqrs., by the partiality of William Haslegrove, the pretended returning officer.

Feb. 3, 1723. Petition withdrawn.

Nov. 14, 1754. Lieutenant-general James Oglethorpe petitioned.

Petition withdrawn.

Nov. 25, 1762. Richard Muilman and Thomas Parker, esqrs., petitioned.

Feb. 12, 1762. Petitions withdrawn.

May 10, 1768. Lieutenant-general James Oglethorpe and John Johnstone, esq., petitioned.

March 3, 1769. Petitions withdrawn.

1774. William Burke and Henry Kelly, esqrs., and certain inhabitant-freeholders and legal voters of the borough of Haslemere petitioned against the election of Thomas More Molyneux, esq., and Sir Merrick Burrell, bart.

March 21, 1775. A committee to try this case was appointed. The petitions of Mr. Burke and Mr. Kelly stated, that the sitting members had been guilty of undue practices, and that illegal votes were admitted, and others, legal, rejected. The other petition complained of the great innovations made on the ancient and true right of election of the borough, by splitting and dividing freeholds. On May 9, the chairman of the committee reported to the House, that the two sitting members were duly elected.

1812. Admiral Richard Graves and Samuel Colleton Graves, esq., petitioned against the return of the Right Hon. Charles Long and Robert Ward, esq.

Sitting members reported duly elected.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

May 20, 1661. The inhabitant-freeholders in the borough have only votes in elections.

Feb. 9, 1698. Was agreed to be in the freeholders resident within the borough.

April 24, 1775. In the determination of 1661, by the word freeholders is only meant freeholders of messuages, lands, or tenements, lying within the borough and manor of Haslemere, whether the same pay rent to the lord of the said borough

and manor or not, exclusive of any lands or tenements which are, or have been, parcel of waste ground of the said borough and manor, or any messuages or buildings, which are, or shall be, standing thereon.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—64.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff, appointed by the lord of the manor.

PROPRIETOR—Earl of Lonsdale.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

Haslemere is what is commonly called a pocket borough; the right of election having been purchased of the late General Oglethorpe, the late Mr. Molineux, and a few individual burgageholders, by Mr. Chandler, an attorney of Guildford, and Mr. Leach, an apothecary of this neighbourhood, upon a borough-mongering speculation, by which they are reported to have cleared six thousand pounds.

The late Earl of Lonsdale bought this borough property again of Mr. Chandler and Mr. Leach. It consists of 40 freeholds out of 64, the remaining 24 belonging to Lord Gwydir.

Ten of these freeholds originate from splitting two into twelve, and are deemed doubtful votes.

The late Earl of Lonsdale, not thinking it safe to trust any of the inhabitants with a conveyance of these freeholds, actually sent 40 of his labourers from his collieries in the north of England to reside in this borough, erected cottages for their accommodation, and allowed them half a guinea a week each, beside what they might earn by their labour, if they thought proper to work. All he required

of these black gentlemen in return was to choose two members of his own nomination for Haslemere.

These men continued to reside in this borough during the remainder of that nobleman's life, a period of more than twenty years, and elected the members who represented this place in the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Parliaments of Great Britain, chosen at the general elections of 1780, 1784, 1790, and 1796.

Upon the death of the late Earl of Lonsdale, the present earl, *thinking the expense of supporting these men might be dispensed with*, he dismissed them, and sent them home; the consequence of which was, that, at the last general election, in 1812, two opposition candidates appeared on the morning of the election, Admiral Richard Graves, and his son, Samuel Colleton Graves, esq. ! The Earl of Lonsdale, having made no conveyance of any of his forty freeholders, nor Lord Gwydir of the twenty-four belonging to him, there was not a single voter to be found in the borough.

In this dilemma there was only one stratagem to be resorted to, which was to cause the bailiff, who is appointed by the Earl of Lonsdale, to adjourn the poll to the next day; and, in the mean time, to put all the attorneys which could be procured from the neighbouring towns in a state of requisition, to make out as many conveyances as the time would admit by the next morning.

This was accordingly put in practice; and by nine o'clock on the following day, about a dozen or fourteen parchment votes were created for the occasion.

These were all objected to by Mr. Disney, counsel for the opposition candidates, as sham conveyances of tenements for which the pretended freeholders were all paying rents to the Earl of Lonsdale at the time; but all of them were admitted as good votes by the returning officer.

At the same time, seven persons, claiming to be real freeholders, and resident inhabitants within the borough, tendered their votes for Admiral Graves and his son, but were all rejected by the bailiff.

This conduct in the returning officer produced a petition from the opposing candidates, which was brought to a hearing the first session of the present Parliament, when Mr. Sergeant Pell, counsel for the petitioners, called the Earl of Lonsdale's steward to prove, that the noble earl was possessed of all the freeholds for which the persons who polled for the sitting members had voted.

The examination of this witness was objected to, on the ground of his being *an agent* to Lord Lonsdale.

On the opposite side it was contended, that if he had been *agent* to the sitting members, it might be objected to his examination, but his being agent to a peer of the realm, who had no right to interfere in the election of members of Parliament, had no such effect.

His examination was not admitted. Lord Lonsdale's rent collector was then called to prove, that he received rent of all the pretended freeholders for the premises they occupied, and for which they voted at the last election.

His evidence was refused for the same reason as the former.

The occupiers of the pretended freeholds were at last called to prove that they paid rent to the Earl of Lonsdale for the same, and that they only received the conveyances of the freeholds on the morning of the election, and returned them as soon as they had voted.

The committee resolved, that these men could not be examined to disqualify their own votes.

The petitioners having no other means of proving their case, the Right Hon. Charles Long and Robert Ward, esq., the sitting members, were declared *duly elected*.

GATTON.

GATTON, a borough in the hundred of Ryegate, Surrey, $19\frac{1}{4}$ miles from London, on the road to Ryegate, from which it is distant two miles, containing six houses and 40 inhabitants. The river Mole has its rise in this parish.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This village acquired the privilege of returning burgesses the 29th of Henry IV. Mr. Prynne writes it returned only once, but Dr. Willis has given the names of their representatives in the 33rd of Henry VIII., and since.

PETITIONS, &c. Feb. 5, 1620. Sir George Moore made the first motion for a Committee of Privileges; offereth a petition from this borough; four chosen, and so returned to the sheriff.

Feb. 7. Reported—One Smyth, a burgess for that town, and a son of Mr. Copley appeared; received a precept from the sheriff to the constable, the principal officer of the town; he delivered it to the minister; he published it Wednesday after for the election.—Mr. Copley, lord of the town, a recusant convict, with six of his lessees, no freeholders, made their choice the Tuesday before; the freeholders made their choice on the Wednesday of Sir Thomas Gresham and Sir Thomas Bludder.

This being confessed to be true, all the committees of opinion, the election undue and return void.

Sir Henry Brittain offers to speak in his own case.

Resolved: "He ought not to speak in his own case, but ought to go out during the dispute concerning himself."

Mr. Samuel Sands: "No member, a delinquent, to be present here at the treaty of the business."

Resolved: "He shall be heard."

Sir Henry Brittain.—"As to the objection of the choice of him before Wednesday, he was unknown to them. The writ directed *burgensibus*, and delivered to Mr. Copley. The town but of seven houses; all but one Copley's tenants. That the election by them good, being not by freeholders. That they agreed upon their election in Gatton, and sealed it casually in Ryegate. That this election good in law. That all the freeholders except one dwelt out of town, and only hold of the manor within the manor."

1st Question. As many as hold the election good say, *Yea*.—Not one *yea*.

2d Question. As many as hold it naught say, *No*.—General vote, *no*.

March 26, 1628. Mr. Hackewill reported from the Committee of Privileges:

“For Gatton, two indentures returned, one by the inhabitants of Gatton, the other by Mr. Copley, solely. Mr. Oldfield and Sir Charles Howard returned by the inhabitants; Sir Thomas Lake and Mr. Jerome Weston returned by Mr. Copley.—Mr. Copley insisted upon this, that he the sole inhabitant. 33rd Henry VIII., Copley, as sole inhabitant, returned two burgesses, and served. 1st and 2d Mary, Mrs. Copley made the like return; and so 2d and 3d Philip and Mary.”

Upon question, the return of Sir Charles Howard and Mr. Oldfield, good; and the other, of Sir Thomas Lake and Mr. Weston, void, and to be taken off the file.

July 15, 1641. The case of Gatton to be reported from the Committee of Privileges.

Nov. 3. Mr. Maynard reports the case of Gatton.

For Mr. Oldfield, his election to serve that place is settled.

It appears by a record, 33 Henry VIII., that a return was made by one inhabitant; and 1st Edward VI., and 6th Edward VI., returns made by the inhabitants and burgesses.

Resolved, upon the question: “That Mr. Saunders’s election for this borough is not good.”

Resolved, upon the question; "That Mr. Sands's election for the borough of Gatton is good."

Resolved, upon the question: "That Mr. Sands is well elected, and ought to sit as a member of this House for the borough of Gatton."

May 5, 1660. Mr. Turner reported double return; "That Thomas Turgis and William Oldfield, esqrs., by one indenture; and Roger James and Robert Wood, esqrs., in another, who had the minority of votes; and the opinion is, that the whole election is void:" whereto the House agreed.

Nov. 12, 1696. A petition of John South, esq., complaining of an undue return of George Evelyn, esq.

A petition of the burgesses and inhabitants to the same effect.

Dec. 15. Colonel Wharton reported, "That for Mr. South, the petitioner, it was insisted the right of election was in the inhabitants not receiving alms, and in the freeholders of the said borough, having such freehold in their own occupation; that upon the poll the petitioner and Mr. Evelyn had each eleven voices; but it was insisted on behalf of the petitioner, that several who voted for Mr. Evelyn were not qualified, and that four who had a right to vote, and would have voted for Mr. South, were denied."

For Mr. Evelyn it was insisted, that the right of election was in the freeholders of the borough and inhabitants paying scot and lot.

Resolved: "That George Evelyn, esq., is duly elected a burgess to serve in this present Parlia-

ment for this borough:" which being twice read, was agreed to by the House.

CORPORATION.

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 26, 1628. Is in the Inhabitants; and the return made by them being adjudged good, was (by the then petitioner) insisted to be in the Inhabitants not receiving alms, and in the Freeholders having such freehold in their own occupation.

Dec. 15, 1696. Was (by the then sitting member) insisted to be in the Freeholders and Inhabitants paying scot and lot; and he was adjudged duly elected.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—*One.*

RETURNING OFFICER—the Lord's Constable.

PROPRIETOR—Sir Mark Wood, bart.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

This borough, which now consists of only *six houses*, has but *one voter*; the right of election being in the freeholders, having such freeholds in their own occupation, and in the inhabitants paying scot and lot. Sir Mark Wood, being proprietor of the whole borough, is the only freeholder; and possessing the six houses, he occupies one, and lets the other five by the week, for which he pays the taxes, and retains the whole right of election in himself.

If the majority of the British House of Commons were not sent to Parliament in the same

way, we should think this single instance sufficient to prove the necessity of immediate reform; but when we find no less than FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOUR members out of six hundred and fifty-eight sent to Parliament by private nomination, and through the influence of peers and opulent commoners, the fallacious and inadequate state of the representation becomes too glaring for the most besotted advocate of corruption to defend.

This borough was the property of the late Sir George Colebroke; at the time of his failure, it was sold by his assignees to Sir William Maine, who was soon after created Lord Newhaven, of the kingdom of Ireland. It was then purchased upon speculation, by Mr. Percy, a sugar-baker, and a Mr. Graham, who sold it again to the late Robert Ladbroke, esq., the banker. In 1795, it was purchased of Mr. Ladbroke by John Petrie, esq., for one hundred and ten thousand pounds, fifty thousand of which was to be retained by the purchaser, as we understand, to answer a claim that government had upon the effects of Sir George Colebroke. On the failure of Mr. Petrie, it was again sold by his assignees to Mark Wood, esq., the present proprietor, who has been created a baronet since the purchase.

In this borough the proprietor unites in himself the functions of member of parliament, magistrate, churchwarden, overseer, surveyor of highways, and collector of taxes, and appoints at his court-leet the constable, who is returning officer.

BLETCHINGLEY.

BLETCHINGLEY, a parish and borough in the hundred of Tandridge, Surrey, two miles from Godstone, and 20 from London; it contains 183 houses, and 1,344 inhabitants, of whom 90 were returned as being employed in trade. It stands pleasantly situated on a hill by the side of Holmsdale, but has no market.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough has returned members to Parliament from the 23rd of Edward I. The representatives were elected in the county court the 2d of Henry V., as it appears by the sheriff's return of that year.

PETITIONS, &c. March 3, 1623. Mr. Glandvyle reported two petitions for this borough; one Lovel pretended to be duly chosen; a cross-petition that Lovel had mis-carried himself. Sir Miles Fleetwood, double returned, waved this borough.

Ordered to be stayed if not gone already.

March 22. Mr. Glandvyle reported. Sir Miles Fleetwood duly chosen, but made his election to serve for another place.

An undue practice in Lovel. The case thus—This borough no corporation: they have only to do with the election. The precept not delivered to the borough, but to the bailiffs. Warning given to all men. Chose Mr. Heyward and Sir Miles Fleetwood. Committee resolved, 1st, That

the bailiff has nothing to do with the election. 2d. None but the borough-holders ought to have votes. 3d. Mr. Hayward was well elected, although no public officer gave notice. The misdemeanor of two: Dr. Harris had been too busy in this. 1st. Gave out, Lady Howard would take away 20 nobles a year from the town, if they did not choose. Proved by one witness. Mr. Lovel excepted against for his religion. Propounded no punishment:—to stand at the bar: to give him an admonition, and to let him know he had been too busy in this matter. For Mr. Lovel, resolved, That he had committed a great offence against this House. 1st. They found he had not received the communion since Easter twelve-months, because out of charity. His mother a recusant, his brother a priest, and his daughter a nun. It appeared that Lovel set these men at work; gave them six-pence to drink, and they were to give him six pounds if they did not choose him or his friends. Lastly, threatened the town, that which was given by Lady Maynard.—Got an assembly of inmates to seal an indenture: sealed this without any warrant: delivered it without the sheriff in his presence. They think fit he is to be committed to the Tower during the pleasure of the House; not to be enlarged till he submit; and the warrant.

Resolved, on the question: “the bailiffs have nothing to do with the election: none but borough-holders ought to have voice.”

“That Mr. Hayward is well elected.”

Mr. Fanshaw.—The Doctor has preached lately

a sermon against the committee—the notes of it read—very ill pulpit language.

Ordered: “The paper to be referred to the Committee of Privileges, and they to have power to send for him and the witnesses.”

Ordered: “A warrant shall go out for a new election in the place of Sir Miles Fleetwood.”

Ordered: “Mr. Lovel shall be sent for by the sergeant forthwith, and come to the bar upon his knee. He to be set by, as a man incapable of the election.”

April 29, 1624. Mr. Glanville reported from the Committee of Privileges for Dr. Harris.—Committee have enjoined him to attend *de die in diem*: sent for him and the witnesses: find at the last committee, where he was present, that he said, all that a gentleman of this House had said was lies. Committee clearly satisfied that it is a great and high offence.

— 30. Dr. Harris brought to the bar, and kneeled. Mr. Speaker let him understand his offence.—Did publish a letter in the church: either read it, or told them the effect of it.—Mr. Lovel undertook another election.—He was present: did labour two voices for him: was told that Lady Howard had withdrawn the pension: might say that she would do it. Did speak these words: “That if the laity and (clergy) make not one body, would come no more in the (pulpit).” Did preach of that text the day following, (26 Matthew); but chose it not purposely: did say, that he the more willing did handle it, because he was sensible of the like wrong.

Kneeling at the bar, Mr. Speaker pronounced this sentence on him : That he shall at the bar acknowledge his offence, and desire pardon ; and, Sunday sevensnight, in the pulpit, at his own parish church, acknowledge his offence, and crave pardon there : and not to take any occasion by this to trouble any of his neighbours or parishioners, but to live in peace and charity among them.

Acknowledges his offence, and is heartily sorry for it : desires pardon of the House. Discharged, doing the like in the country, according to the order of the House.

April 17, 1640. Mr. Jones reported from the Committee of Privileges two things:—1st. Concerning Mr. Bisse. 2d. Three returns ; one for himself, one for Mr. Hoskins, and one for Sir Francis Carew ; 23 for Mr. Bisse, 12 for one of the others, and 11 for the other.

Mr. Bisse duly elected.

Nov. 25, 1695. A petition of George Evelyn, esq., complaining of an undue return of Maurice Thompson, esq.

Feb. 5. Colonel Granville reported, That Mr. Howard was agreed by both parties to be duly elected. The poll was—

For Mr. Howard61

Mr. Thompson29

The petitioner.....40

The petitioner insisted the bailiff had, without just cause, declared against 24 of his voters, and so Mr. Thompson elected : hereupon many witnesses on both sides as to qualification of voters, and the committee resolved :

“ That Maurice Thompson, esq., is not duly elected.”

“ That George Evelyn is duly elected.”

The first resolution was read a second time.

Resolved: “ That the consideration of this election be re-committed.

After further evidence, the former report was read, and the question put, “ That Maurice Thompson, esq., is duly elected.” On a division, it was resolved in the affirmative.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

Is in the Borough-holders only, without the bailiff.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 130, but are all the property of an individual.

RETURNING OFFICER—None.

PROPRIETOR—Matthew Russell, esq.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

At Old Sarum we meet with a borough without a single house or inhabitant; at Haslemere another without a voter: the freeholds being the property of two peers, who neither reside in the place, which is a necessary qualification; nor could they constitutionally exercise the functions of a commoner if they did. At Bletchingly, to complete the absurdity of the rotten borough system, we find another without a returning officer.

In 1623, it was resolved by the House, that the bailiff, who is appointed by the proprietor of the borough, has nothing to do with the election; it therefore follows, that any other person may exercise the duties of that office.

Bletchingly was the property of the late Sir Robert Clayton, who sold the reversion in his lifetime to the late reverend Doctor Kenrick, from whom it was inherited by the present William Kenrick, esq., who, we are informed, has lately sold it to Matthew Russell, esq., the present member for Saltash, for sixty thousand pounds.

The right of election here being in about ninety burgage tenures, which are all the property of Mr. Russell, he has the absolute nomination of both members.

RYEGATE.

RYEGATE is a borough, market-town, and parish, in the hundred of Ryegate, Surrey, 13 miles from Kingston, and 21 from London; containing 407 houses and 2,246 inhabitants, of whom 234 were returned as being employed in trade. The neighbourhood abounds with fullers' earth and medicinal springs. Market on Tuesdays, besides a monthly one on Wednesday; and its fairs are Whit Monday and 14th September.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY.

This borough sent members to Parliament in the 23rd of Edward I.

PETITIONS, &c. April 20, 1640. Mr. Jones reported three returned; Mr. Thurland, Sir John Bludder, Mr. Robert Godwin: Mr. Thurland's election appeared clear on the view of the indentures. The case of the other two referred to the further consideration of the committee.—No report.

Oct. 25, 1680. A petition of Deane Goodwin, esq.

Dec. 9. Sir Richard Corbet reported two resolutions, viz.

“That Ralph Freeman, esq., is not duly elected.”

“That Deane Goodwin, esq., is duly elected.”

Jan. 22, 1688. A petition of Thomas Vincent, esq., complaining of an undue return.

March 1. Colonel Birch reported the matter concerning this election.

Resolved: “That Sir John Parsons, knt., is not duly elected.”

“That Thomas Vincent, esq., is duly elected.”

March 24, 1689. A petition of Thomas Vincent, esq., complaining of an undue return of John Parsons by illegal practices, having prevailed with Allen Dewdney, the bailiff of the borough, to return him with Sir John Parsons, his father.

Oct. 6. Another petition of Thomas Vincent, esq., to the same effect.

No report.

Dec. 3, 1695. A petition of Thomas Windsor and Roger James, esqrs., against the return of Sir John Parsons and John Parsons, esq.

No report.

Oct. 18, 1722. A petition of Humphrey Parsons, esq., and Richard Mead, esq., complaining of an undue return of Sir Joseph Jekyll, knt., and James Cocks, esq., by partiality of one William Sheward, pretending to be a bailiff and returning officer.

Petition withdrawn.

CORPORATION

None.

RIGHT OF ELECTION

In the Freeholders.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 200, now the property of two individuals.

RETURNING OFFICER—the Bailiff.

PROPRIETORS—Earl of Hardwicke and Lord Somers.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

The ancient castle and manor of this borough having been forfeited by Lord Monson during the civil wars, was, by Charles II., at his restoration, granted to his brother the Duke of York; and at the Revolution, King William granted them to Lord Somers, upon whose death they came to James Cocks, esq., who was then one of the representatives of this town in Parliament; from whom they have descended to the present Lord Somers, who appoints the returning officer at his court-leet, and nominates one of the members.

Adjoining to the south side of the town is a great house, which was formerly a priory of black canons, founded by William Warren, Earl of Surrey. At the Dissolution, it was given to Howard, Earl of Nottingham, and afterwards sold to Sir John Parsons, lord-mayor of London, who had the nomination of the other member, and represented this town in six successive parliaments. This house was not many years since in the possession of Mr. Parsons, the grandson of Sir John.

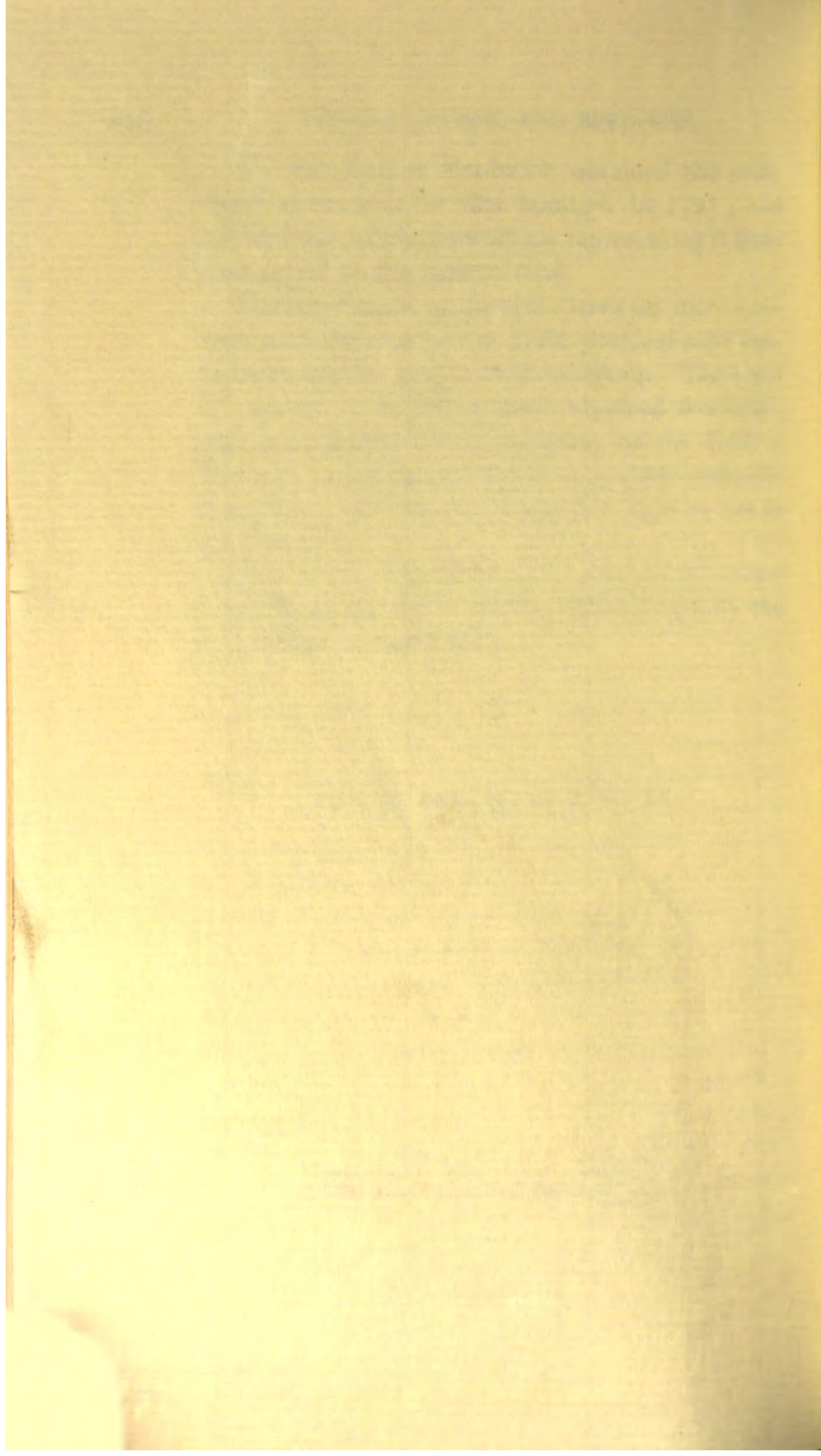
The first Earl of Hardwick obtained the command of one seat for this borough in 1721; and we find one of his descendants representing it from that period to the present time.

The inhabitants of Ryegate have no more concern with the election of their nominal representatives than the people of Birmingham. The right of voting is in about two hundred freeholds, which are nearly all the property of the Earl of Hardwicke and Lord Somers, who each nominate a member, and depute a few parchment voters to elect them.

The county of Surrey sends fourteen members to Parliament, ten of whom are returned by the nomination of individuals.

END OF VOL. II. OF PART II.

THE
OF
THE
THE
THE
THE
THE
THE
THE





Buchbinderei
Seb. Simmel & Sohn
München

Buchbinderei
Seb. Simmel & Sohn
München

Oldfield, Thomas H. B.,

The representative history of Great Britain and Ireland being a history of
the House of Commons, and of the counties, cities, and boroughs of the
United Kingdom, from the earliest period ; in six volumes

Bd.: 4

London 1816

Brit. 419 x-4

urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb10281202-4